

NEWS RELEASE

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**Winners Circle Educational Foundation to Celebrate Sixth Graders at Recognition with Mayor**

OMAHA, Neb. — On Wednesday, May 6, Mayor Mike Fahey will honor over 270 sixth grade students from 12 inner-city Omaha Public Schools. Students are being honored for their academic achievements in goal setting for the school year through the Winners Circle Program.

All Winners Circle students receive academic and citizenship goals every quarter. The sixth graders that meet their goals three out of four quarters are honored at this special ceremony at 10:00 a.m., in the Holland Performing Arts Center. The program helps promote teachers, families and the community to get involved, and assist the students in achieving their goals.

Jerry Hoberman, founder of the Winners Circle Program, will preside over the ceremonies. Mayor Mike Fahey will present each student with a trophy to celebrate their achievements. In addition, one sixth grader from each school will speak on goal setting and the impact the Winners Circle Program has had on their education.

President and CEO of the Urban League of Omaha, Thomas Warren and OPS Superintendant, Dr. John Mackiel will address the students at the ceremony. Many of the Winners Circle volunteers and family members of the students will also be in attendance.

The 12 OPS elementary schools represented are: Belvedere, Conestoga Magnet, Howard Kennedy, King, Mount View, Saratoga, Franklin, Kellom, Miller Park, Fontenelle, Field Club and Jackson. At the ceremony, each student will wear a uniform polo shirt that features their school logo. The Winners Circle donates a uniform polo to each student and staff member in the 12 schools it serves.

Transportation is provided for students and their family members to and from the Holland Center. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony for the students.

The Winners Circle Program was founded in 1996 by Cookie & Jerry Hoberman. The Winners Circle strives to improve access to educational opportunities through a program of early intervention that targets disadvantaged elementary students from Omaha Public Schools by providing goal setting, positive role models and incentives to recognize academic achievement and good citizenship. More information can be found at [www.winners-circle.org](http://www.winners-circle.org).

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