

Michigan Business Leaders for Education Excellence Recognizes Four Michigan Elementary Schools as Top Performers

The Michigan Business Leaders for Education Excellence (MBLEE) today announced its selection of the top performing elementary schools for 2006. Working with the National Center for Educational Accountability and Just for the Kids, MBLER identified four elementary schools that consistently perform well academically while overcoming barriers associated with above average levels of poverty.

"These schools, and the educators that lead them, have refused to accept excuses and have worked hard to provide their students with a quality education," said Garret Geer, of the Dow Chemical Company, who co-chairs the MBLER Working Group. "We believe that there are valuable lessons to be learned and shared with Michigan's high priority schools and we want to work together to discover the best practices that can help all schools succeed."

Schools selected this year include:

- * Adlai Stevenson Elementary - Southfield Public Schools
- * Lewiston Elementary - Johannesburg Lewiston Area Schools
- * Weidman Elementary - Chippewa Hills Public Schools
- * Iris Becker Elementary - Dearborn City Schools

Criteria used in the selection process included: academic performance data in mathematics, language arts, listening, writing, science, social studies and reading over the past three years. Each school also had higher than average rates of students on the free and reduced lunch program and a diverse student population that was above average or unique by geographical location.

MBLER, Just for the Kids and the National Center for Educational Accountability will honor these schools and conduct a best practices study at the Great Wolf Lodge Resort in Traverse City on June 22 & 23. Superintendents, principals and a fourth grade teacher from each school will work with researchers and analysts to determine how the practices used in these schools can be adopted by Michigan's high priority schools. Over 300,000 students currently attend high priority schools in Michigan.

"We look forward to celebrating the success of these schools and to learning how they were able to beat the odds in order to reach higher levels of academic achievement," said MBLER Executive Director Jim Sandy.

MBLER is a statewide organization whose corporate members include: Whirlpool, DaimlerChrysler, State Farm Insurance, ArvinMeritor, Steelcase, Ford, Dow, General Motors and the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. The Office of the Governor and the Michigan Department of Education are also partners with MBLER.

SOURCE: Michigan Business Leaders for Education Excellence

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