Michigan Business Leaders for Education Excellence to Honor Barkell Elementary School as a Top Performer

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The Michigan Business Leaders for Education Excellence (MBLEE) will recognize Barkell Elementary School as one of Michigan's top performing schools. Barkell is a part of the Hancock Public Schools district. Education leaders, teachers and students from Barkell Elementary School will be honored at a ceremony scheduled for Wednesday, October 10. The school was one of five in Michigan that were identified by the National Center for Educational Accountability and Just for the Kids as a school that consistently performs well academically while overcoming barriers often identified as a cause for failure.

"This school, and the educators that lead it, have refused to accept excuses and have worked hard to provide their students with a quality education," said Jim Sandy, MBLEE Executive Director. "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."

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. Barkell 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.

Education leaders from the school worked with researchers and analysts from MBLEE, Just for the Kids and the National Center for Educational Accountability to determine how the practices used in their schools can be adopted by Michigan's high priority schools. Over 125,000 students currently attend high priority schools in Michigan. Representatives from MBLEE and the NCEA will be conducting on-site visits throughout the school year to learn more about operations at these high performing schools.

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

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