



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SIX SCHOOL-BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS FROM ACROSS  
THE NATION SET THE STANDARD FOR IMPROVING  
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

*Top 2006-2007 National School and Business Partnerships Award Winners  
Receive \$10,000 Each*

**WASHINGTON, DC (April 26, 2007)** – Improving the academic, social and physical well-being of students continues to be a top priority of business and school partnerships across the country. In recognition of successful partnership efforts, The Council for Corporate & School Partnerships today announced the winners of the 2006–2007 **National School and Business Partnerships Award**.

The following **six winners** have each earned \$10,000 to further the efforts of their partnerships:

- Ockerman Middle School and Schwan’s Global Supply Chain, Inc. (Florence, KY)
- Baldwin School District and Mercy Medical Center (Long Island, NY)
- Virginia Shuman Young Elementary Montessori Magnet School and O.R. Colan Associates (Fort Lauderdale, FL)
- Northwestern Regional High School and Northwest Community Bank (Winsted, CT)
- Mesa Public Schools and The Boeing Company (Mesa, AZ)
- Granite Bay High School GBiT program and Intel Corporation (Granite Bay, CA)

Winning partnerships have compelling data that reflect a positive impact on student achievement, school improvement and/or the overall education experience. Utilizing clearly-defined goals and measurements, the winning school-business partnerships demonstrate significant improvements in state test scores; reading, math and science acceleration; financial literacy; healthcare career preparation; incorporation of technology in the classroom; and social well-being as advanced through character education.

“In light of 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce requirements, the need for exemplary school-business partnerships has become foundational,” said **former U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, Chairman of The Council for Corporate & School Partnerships**. “The premise of an effective school-business partnership is that classroom learning ‘comes to life’ in a real-world context. The experiential learning that students acquire in a business setting is essential toward ensuring that our nation’s future workforce has the skills necessary to compete effectively on a global playing field.”

The Council for Corporate & School Partnerships, founded by The Coca-Cola Company, created this award program in 2003. Since then, the Council has received close to 1,000 applications from 48 states, including Alaska and Hawaii, and the District of Columbia. Applications came from schools of all sizes – elementary, middle, high schools, and school districts – and from all geographical areas – urban, suburban and rural. Businesses of various sizes were represented across many industries including aeronautics, technology and finance. According to **Melanie White, Director, Education and Youth Channels, The Coca-Cola Company**, “The Coca-Cola Company views this program as an investment in student well-being and the nation’s productivity. The skill and success of future business leaders is advanced by student-centered collaboration among schools, communities and business leaders.”

In addition to the six winners, there were **six honorable mentions**:

- Carroll County Training Consortium and multiple businesses (Carrollton, KY)
- Fair Street Elementary School and Wrigley Manufacturing Company, LLC (Gainesville, GA)
- Mankato Area Public Schools and Greater Mankato Chamber of Commerce (Mankato, MN)
- Passaic County Technical Institute and Columbia Bank (Wayne, NJ)
- Tilles Elementary School and Arvest Bank, AT&T Pioneers, and Zero Mountain (Fort Smith, AR)
- Rolling Meadows and Wheeling High Schools and Motorola, Inc. (Rolling Meadows, IL)

“Strong and successful companies rely on the intellectual capacity of their workforce,” said **Ronald Blackburn-Moreno, President & CEO, The ASPIRA Association**. “There is no greater ‘Aha!’ moment than when classroom learning is applied toward resolving a complex challenge in the workplace. Exemplary school-business partnerships strengthen critical thinking and model best practice in ways that benefit schools and businesses alike.”

The partnerships were judged on how well they demonstrated success in four categories.

- *Foundation* – how the partnership was initially established;
- *Implementation* – how the partners work together on an ongoing basis;
- *Sustainability* – how the partners work to sustain the partnership over time; and
- *Evaluation* – the impact the partnership has on the business and school communities.

Council members who served as award program judges were Dr. Terry Peterson, Director, National Resource for Afterschool and Community Education; Dr. Mel Riddile, former MetLife National Principal of the Year, Principal, T.C. Williams High School; Ronald Blackburn-Moreno, President & CEO, the ASPIRA Association, Inc.; and Jay Engeln, former MetLife National Principal of the Year, National Association of Secondary School Principals.

*About the Council.*

The Council for Corporate & School Partnerships, established in March 2001, works with educators and businesses to identify, create, recognize and support exemplary business-school relationships that improve the student experience in K-12 schools in the United States. The Council has focused efforts to date on a variety of partnership areas, including promotion of healthy and active living.

Based on interviews with nearly 300 school board members and educators, and more than 50 executives from large, medium, and small businesses, Council members have developed critical resources to help businesses and schools manage the process of building relationships that deliver both partners long-term benefits. *Guiding Principles for Business and School Partnerships* presents these key learnings drawn from successful business and school relationships, while *A How-To Guide for School-Business Partnerships* offers a practical road map to school officials and business leaders engaging in partnerships that improve the student experience.

Members of The Council for Corporate & School Partnerships include:

Chairman

**The Honorable Richard W. Riley**, former U.S. Secretary of Education and former Governor of South Carolina

Members

**Ronald Blackburn-Moreno**, President & CEO, The ASPIRA Association, Inc.

**Dr. Anne L. Bryant**, Executive Director, National School Boards Association

**Warlene Gary**, Chief Executive Officer, National PTA

**Dr. Paul Houston**, Executive Director, American Association of School Administrators

**Dr. Larry Price**, Superintendent, Wilson County Schools

**Stephen Jordan**, Vice President and Executive Director, Business Civic Leadership Center of U.S. Chamber of Commerce

**Dr. Mel Riddile**, Principal, T.C. Williams High School

**Dr. Terry Peterson**, Director, National Resource Network for Afterschool and Community Education

**Dr. Gerald N. Tirozzi**, Executive Director, National Association of Secondary School Principals

**Brenda Welburn**, Executive Director, National Association of State Boards of Education

**Dr. Judith Young**, Vice President for Programs, American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

**Carlton Curtis**, Vice President, Industry Affairs, Coca-Cola North America

**John H. Downs, Jr.**, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.

In addition, The Council for Corporate & School Partnerships supports a Resident Practitioner to help promote the on-the-ground development of effective school-business partnerships.

**Jay Engeln**, Resident Practitioner, National Association of Secondary School Principals

Case studies of the winning applications will be posted on the Council's Web site this summer. For more information on publications and activities of The Council for Corporate & School Partnerships, please contact Lisa Bushey at 202.667.0901 or visit [www.corpschoolpartners.org](http://www.corpschoolpartners.org).

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