

States, Districts, and Schools Receive National Network's Partnership Awards

Two states, five school districts, and six schools received the first annual Partnership Awards from the National Network of Partnership Schools at Johns Hopkins University. The awards recognize excellence in developing and sustaining comprehensive programs of school, family, and community partnerships for at least two years.

Key contacts from sites in California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, and Utah submitted applications that documented how they implemented essential elements of good partnership programs. They described and gave evidence for teamwork, leadership, plans for action, implementation, evaluation, and connections with the National Network of Partnership Schools. Applications were reviewed by six readers for the comprehensiveness of responses and strength of evidence.

The following states, districts, and schools received Partnership Awards for 2000: **Connecticut State Department of Education**, Bureau of School-Family-Community Partnerships; **Ohio Department of Education**, Office of School, Family, and Community Partnerships/Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement; **Francis Polytechnic/North Hollywood Cluster**, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), CA; **Grand Blanc Community Schools**, Grand Blanc, MI; **Los Angeles County Office of Education**, Los Angeles, CA;

Naperville Community Unit School District 203, Naperville, IL; **Southern Area of Baltimore City Public Schools**, Baltimore, MD; **Bouquet Canyon Elementary School**, Sausalito, CA; **Florence Nightingale Middle School**, Los Angeles, CA; **Franklin-York Learning Community**, Massillon, OH; **Mount Logan Middle School**, Logan UT; **Westlake Elementary School**, New Carlisle, OH; **Woodridge Primary School**, Cuyahoga Falls, OH.

Dr. Mavis Sanders, Assistant Director noted, "The Partnership Award schools, districts, and states demonstrate that structures and processes can be developed to ensure that school, family, and community partnerships are planned, ongoing, and productively linked to school improvement goals."

Summaries of approaches and activities of the Partnership Award recipients, as well as the award criteria, are on the Network's web site, www.partnershipschools.org. Click on "In the Spotlight" and "National Network Announces Partnership Awards." (Or, click to go directly to the list of Partnership Award recipients.)

NNPS congratulates the Partnership Award recipients for 1999-2000. The criteria for the awards set standards that all schools, districts, and states in the Network are expected to achieve. Applications for the 2001 awards will be issued in January.