

July 29, 2014

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\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*

**Healthy Schools Campaign Honors Outstanding Principal and Parent Leaders for their Commitment to School Health and Wellness**

*HSC's Change for Good Initiative Delivers Healthier School Food, Student Fitness and Active Learning to Chicago Schools*

CHICAGO – Five Chicago Public School (CPS) principals and three parent leaders were honored last Tuesday, July 22, at Healthy Schools Campaign's annual Change for Good Luncheon. These individuals were recognized for their inspiring commitment to school health and wellness. The annual fundraising event, held at the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois building in Chicago, brought together nearly 300 members of Chicago's civic and business community to celebrate and support Healthy Schools Campaign's efforts—and the efforts of local community leaders—to improve the quality of school food, physical activity, schoolyards and the classroom experience for Chicago students.

Among those in attendance were event chair Sue Gin, founder and CEO of Flying Food Group; event co-chairs Karen Atwood, president of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, and Terry Mazany, president and CEO of The Chicago Community Trust; and keynote speaker Dr. Kent McGuire, president and CEO of the Southern Education Foundation and a former U.S. assistant secretary of education.

"One year ago, Healthy Schools Campaign launched Change for Good as a three-year partnership with the Chicago Public Schools to transform school food, student fitness, schoolyards and the classroom experience for students across the city," said Healthy Schools Campaign President and CEO Rochelle Davis. "This critical initiative would not be possible without the dedication of school leaders and parents who care deeply about their schools and understand the critical link between health and lifelong learning and success. It's an honor to recognize several of the principals and parents who are making the Change for Good mission a reality in their schools."

**Outstanding Principal Award Winners**

For their leadership in creating a culture of health and wellness at their schools that positively impacts the lives of hundreds of students on a daily basis, Healthy Schools Campaign recognized the following individuals as Outstanding Principal Award Winners.

*Jose Luis Illanes, Francisco I. Madero Middle School* – Under Principal Illanes leadership, Madero Middle School instituted Breakfast in the Classroom long before it was a district mandate. His school promotes health and wellness by offering healthy cooking classes for community members and hosting health festivals with health-related community organizations.

*Flavia Hernandez, Cyrus H. McCormick Elementary School* – Principal Hernandez was previously recognized by Healthy Schools Campaign as a “Recess Hero” for her key role in reinstating recess for all CPS elementary schools while working at the district’s central office. As a Fit to Learn advisory board member, Hernandez prioritizes movement in classroom lessons and is a champion of recess before lunch.

*Rhonda Genise Hoskins, Richard J. Daley Elementary Academy* – Principal Hoskins has championed nutrition education by integrating nutrition lessons into core classes. She has tapped partner organizations to teach students about how nutrition and physical activity impact their health. Additionally, she bridged the gap between the classroom and the dining center by highlighting healthy food, which has led to increased consumption.

*Vicky Kleros, Manuel Perez Elementary School* – Principal Kleros has a long history of embracing programs including recess, daily PE and universal breakfast before they were mandated by the district. Her school was one of the first to receive gold certification through the HealthierUS School Challenge. She unites teachers and parents in a variety of school improvement efforts throughout the year.

*Michael R. Heidkamp, Nathanael Greene Elementary School* – Principal Heidkamp has a goal of “creating a new normal” at Greene Elementary School by institutionalizing student health. By changing ice cream socials to smoothie socials (a move applauded by students and parents alike), hosting community wellness events and offering a variety of fitness-focused after-school programming, the school is well on its way.

### **Parent Leadership Award Winners**

For their commitment to creating healthier school environments not only on behalf of their own children, but on behalf of all Chicago students, Healthy Schools Campaign recognized the following individuals as Parent Leadership Award Winners.

*Karina Macedo, Nathanael Greene Elementary School* – Karina leads Greene Elementary School’s parent-driven wellness team and her local school council. She was instrumental in Greene’s gold certification through the HealthierUS School Challenge and she was chosen to represent her school at a White House event.

*Martha Ramirez, Joseph Jungman Elementary School* – A well-respected leader in the Pilsen community, Martha is president of her local school council and PTO. As the lead parent on her school’s wellness team, she was a key driver of the parent petition to bring PE back to Chicago schools.

*Hilda Cazares* – Hilda learned about healthy eating when she became a parent leader in her school. She decided to turn her new passion into a career and transformed her family’s health in the process. She owns and operates a healthy catering company and teaches others about healthy cooking.

To learn more about Healthy Schools Campaign’s Change for Good initiative, go to [healthyschoolscampaign.org/changeforgood](http://healthyschoolscampaign.org/changeforgood).

The Change for Good Luncheon was generously supported by presenting sponsors [The Chicago Community Trust](#), [Exelon](#) and [Flying Food Group](#); and gold sponsor Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois.

### **About Healthy Schools Campaign**

Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to making schools healthier places for all students. HSC believes that health and wellness should be incorporated into every aspect of the school experience. Founded in 2002, HSC advocates for children to have better access to nutritious school food, physical activity, school health resources and clean air to shape their lifelong learning and health. HSC facilitates collaboration between students, parents, teachers, administrators and policymakers to help prepare this diverse group of stakeholders to lead change for healthier schools at the school, district, state and national levels. For more information, visit HSC on the web at [healthyschoolscampaign.org](http://healthyschoolscampaign.org), [facebook.com/healthyschools](https://facebook.com/healthyschools) and via Twitter @healthyschools.

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