

participated in a summer internship program at the National Institutes of Health in Maryland. At an age when many children look to hangout at a local mall, Kelsey has already built a resume that mirrors those students who were born more than a decade before her.

In addition to her academic activities, Kelsey is involved in community life. She is presently the youngest account holder at the Community Foundation of West Kentucky where she raises money for medical and research based charitable organizations. She is a regular at the local Salvation Army and makes time to volunteer at a local children's hospital in Lexington, KY.

After earning a bachelor's degree in biology at the University of Kentucky next spring, Kelsey will begin her postbaccalaureate position at the National Institutes of Health and then hopes to attend medical school. Like most Kentuckians, I look forward to seeing all that she will accomplish as she works toward her goal of becoming a medical scientist.●

CONGRATULATING WALKER INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Walker Intermediate School on being named a President's Challenge State Champion by the President's Council on Physical Fitness, PCPFS, for 2007-2008. Their accomplishment is an example for all schools across the Commonwealth and our Nation.

Each year the PCPFS State Champion award is presented in all 50 states to 3 schools with the highest number of students scoring at or above the 85th percentile on the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test. The test measures four components of physical fitness: a 1-mile run-walk for heart and lung endurance; curl ups for abdominal strength and endurance; a "sit and reach" stretch for muscular flexibility; pullups for upper body strength and endurance; and a shuttle run for agility. The inclusion of Walker Intermediate School in this group is a credit to the dedication of its students, staff, and administration.

Walker Intermediate School is a role model to other institutions through its dedication to helping students gain physical fitness skills and to understanding the health benefits of regular physical activity. In a time in which many young people are faced with weight related problems, Walker Intermediate has proven to be a leader by encouraging students and adults to engage in physical activity.

Walker Intermediate School is an inspiration to the citizens of Kentucky and to student and community leaders everywhere. I look forward to seeing all they will accomplish in the future.●

CONGRATULATING WEST KNOX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate West Knox Elementary School on being named a President's Challenge State Champion by the President's Council on Physical Fitness, PCPFS, for 2007-2008. Their accomplishment is an example for all schools across the Commonwealth and our Nation.

Each year the PCPFS State Champion award is presented in all 50 States to 3 schools with the highest number of students scoring at or above the 85th percentile on the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test. The test measures four components of physical fitness: a 1-mile run-walk for heart and lung endurance; curl ups for abdominal strength and endurance; a "sit and reach" stretch for muscular flexibility; pullups for upper body strength and endurance; and a shuttle run for agility. The inclusion of West Knox Elementary School in this group is a credit to the dedication of its students, staff, and administration.

West Knox Elementary School is a role model to other institutions through its dedication to helping students gain physical fitness skills and to understanding the health benefits of regular physical activity. In a time in which many young people are faced with weight related problems, West Knox Elementary has proven to be a leader by encouraging students and adults to engage in physical activity.

West Knox Elementary School is an inspiration to the citizens of Kentucky and to student and community leaders everywhere. I look forward to seeing all they will accomplish in the future.●

BOISE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, as an Idahoan, I have many reasons to be proud of the accomplishments of fellow Idahoans, and today, I have yet another: in early September, the Federal Aviation Administration notified the Boise Air Traffic Control Tower—BOI ATCT—that it had been selected as National Facility of the Year for fiscal year 2007. In a category that included 112 other facilities nationwide, the BOI ATCT scored higher than the others on safety metrics, employee focus, innovation and customer service. I congratulate Gordon Stewart, BOI ATCT manager and his staff for their teamwork, positive, winning attitudes and overall excellence. As Gordon noted recently, he and his team are "ever cognizant of the public trust bestowed upon our profession, and with that knowledge we constantly strive to move the bar of excellence higher. . . . The greatest tool at our disposal is communication." This award comes on the heels of a regional award that the BOI ATCT team won for fiscal year 2006.

I wish BOI ATCT continued success in its service and its highly effective

partnerships with the Boise Airport, Idaho Air and Army National Guard, National Interagency Fire Center, passenger and cargo airlines and corporate and general aviation. It is good to know that an airport that I frequently use abides by such high standards of safety and service.●

ATLANTIC COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Atlantic Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Atlantic Community School District received two Harkin fire safety grants totaling \$180,960 which it used for improvements to the fire safety systems at the elementary and middle schools and to address deficiencies on the fire safety report. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute Superintendent Wendy Prigge, former Superintendent Mark Schweer, the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Atlantic Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—President Phil Hascall, Vice President Jody Lorence, Kristy Pellett, Dennis Davis, Jon Martens, and former members Jan Myers, Steve Jacobs, and Glen Smith. In addition, district staff Barb Nelson, now deceased, Denise Bridges, Jan Kerns, and Jerry Jensen should also be recognized for their work on the grant application and implementation.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Atlantic Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them and wish them a very successful new school year.●

CAL COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the CAL Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The CAL Community School District received a 1999 Harkin grant totaling \$205,000 which it used to help build an addition to the elementary school and a 2004 Harkin grant totaling \$162,250 to provide space for pre-kindergarten programs, before and after school programs, vocational agriculture programs and science. The district also received fire safety grants totaling \$99,978 to improve emergency lighting, install fire alarms and make other

safety improvements throughout the district. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the CAL Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Mark Johansen, Beth Eddy, Shawn Elphic, Steve Muhlenbruch and Therron Miller and former board members Roy Plagge, Darwin Hill, Jacki Anderson, Craig Johnson and Lee Schaefer. I would also like to recognize superintendent Steven Lane and former superintendents Dr. James Jess, Charles Stalker and Lyle Schwartz and the CAL Education Foundation.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

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CENTRAL CITY COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school-board members in the Central City Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

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Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Central City Community School District received a 2004 Harkin grant totaling \$500,000 which it used to help build a new high school building and expand curricular offerings and after-school programs, improve available technology, and improve accessibility for students with disabilities. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves. The district also received a fire safety grant in 2002, totaling \$30,000, which was used to install a new fire alarm system and to make ventilation improvements in the multipurpose and high school buildings.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Central City Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—David Goodlove, Neil Mattias, Crystal Murphy, Leanna Palmer and Eric Rauch and former board members Kirk Hayes, Teresa Uhlenkamp and Sue Pillard. I would also like to recognize superintendent John Dotson, former superintendent Bill Mertens, high school principal David Glynn and business manager Karla Hogan.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

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