

in biomedical research, largely as a result of the funding for the National Institutes of Health that many of us in the Senate fight for each year.

The American Society of Hematologists—ASH—represents more than 15,000 clinicians and scientists committed to the study and treatment of blood and blood-related diseases, including blood cancers, bleeding and clotting diseases, and hereditary disorders. Hematologists have made remarkable contributions to the advancement of biomedical research and are active participants in NIH biomedical research programs, recipients of NIH grants, and contributors to NIH's biomedical research accomplishments. I am pleased to note that some of this groundbreaking research is being conducted in Iowa by ASH member Dr. George Weiner and his team at the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Iowa.

Hematologists have been at the forefront of some of the most remarkable advancements in medicine over the past half century. ASH members have turned Federal research dollars into effective treatments for diseases that were once disabling or a death sentence, and have been pioneers in the fields of bone marrow transplantation and gene therapy.

By the NIH's own estimates, the overall 5-year survival rate for childhood cancers rose to nearly 80 percent during the 1990s from under 60 percent in the 1970s. A diagnosis of acute lymphoblastic leukemia was fatal for every child who developed it in the 1960s, but today, after new combinations of drugs were developed by hematology researchers, and aggressive treatment of the brain and spinal fluid were incorporated, approximately 80 percent of children with the disease are cured.

NIH also notes that the emergence of new, more precise ways to treat cancer, such as drugs that target abnormal proteins in cancer cells, have contributed to a dramatic increase in the average life expectancy for Americans. Again, hematologists have been at the forefront of these discoveries.

Acute promyelocytic leukemia—APL—was once described as the most malignant form of acute leukemia. Today, the treatment of APL has become a model for treating cancer with targeted therapy. In combination with chemotherapy, targeted treatment has significantly improved survival in patients with APL and raised remission rates to about 85 percent.

In the 1950s the only treatment for chronic myelogenous leukemia—CML—was radiation of the spleen, granting patients about 30 months of survival. Analysis of the CML-specific chromosomal translocation allowed the development of imatinib, a gene-targeting drug that is the paradigm for a new generation of “smart” drugs that allow disease-specific therapy. Using this non toxic oral drug, more than 75 percent of patients diagnosed with CML achieve a

lasting, complete cytogenetic remission.

I have consistently fought for increases to NIH annual budget, and will continue to do so to ensure that hematologists and researchers around the Nation continue to have the resources necessary to lead in new fields of biomedical investigation and translate new scientific discoveries into improved diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive strategies.

Again, I salute the American Society of Hematology for a magnificent first 50 years. With continued NIH funding, I am confident that hematologists will have even greater successes in treating and eliminating blood diseases over the next 50 years. ●

#### COMMENDING ALLAMAKEE 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 Allamakee 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 Allamakee Community School District received a 2004 Harkin Grant totaling \$394,382 for a collaborative project addressing a myriad of needs throughout the community. After eight failed efforts to pass a referendum to make improvements to the high school, it was time to think outside the box.

Community leaders established the PRIDE committee to undertake a comprehensive planning process that looked at the needs of the school district as well as those of the community. The result was a proposal to renovate the high school and build an addition to the existing building. The committee also recommended building a new facility across the street from the high school to house a satellite center for Northeast Iowa Community

College, a community wellness center, a senior center, and a youth center. This project was a unique partnership between the school district, city, county and community college. And their hard work paid off with the passage of a \$10 million bond issue approved by 78 percent of the voters.

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 patrons, staff, administration, and governance in the Allamakee Community School District.

I would like to recognize a number of individuals for their outstanding leadership on the project, in particular, members of the Allamakee PRIDE Committee—Michael Meyers from Veterans Memorial Hospital, Dave Martin from Martin Funeral Home, Dennis Lyons from Farmers and Merchant's Bank, Joe Cunningham from the Waukon City Council, Patty Fosaaen from the Allamakee Board of Education, superintendent of schools David Herold and former superintendent of schools John Speer. I would also like to recognize members of the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors—Kathy Campbell, Lenny Burke, and the late Bill Clark; members of the Board of Education—President Tom Baxter, Bob Hager, Scott Melcher, Dwight Watkins and former member Sheryl Evanson; members of the Waukon City Council—former mayor Dwight Jones, Steve Wiedner, Rod Peterson and former members Drew Hager and Duane DeWalle; and several key school district administrators—buildings and grounds manager Dennis Mahr, business manager Janice Rea, junior high principal Joe Griffith and assistant high school principal Bob Wasson. Finally, I would recognize some of the personnel responsible for grant writing and for the bond referendum—Safe Schools/Healthy Students project director Barb Winters, elementary principal Ann Hart, Gail Prestemon from Waukon State Bank, Mary Jo Meyer from Farm Bureau Financial Services and Allamakee Community School District librarian Linda Groe.

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 Allamakee 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.●

#### COMMENDING BOONE 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 Boone 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 Boone Community School District received a 2005 Harkin grant totaling \$183,500. The grant helped the district renovate and convert several classrooms at the high school into state-of-the-art science labs, install technology infrastructure at a new middle school, and provide a fiber optic connection to Franklin Elementary School, to provide high speed Internet access. This project provides the type of facilities that befit the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district.

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 Boone Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the members of the school board, Dr. Jeff Anderson, Pam Boehm, Everett Johnson, Kirk Leeds and Brad O'Neal and former members Stan Brandmeyer, Jim Malloy, and Paulette Newbold. I would also recognize superintendent Dr. Theron Schutte, high school principal Dave Kapfer, former middle school

principal Nate Heying, Franklin principal Dan Gould, technology coordinator Bog Patterson, director of buildings and grounds Dean Berkland, and John Haila from Haila Engineering.

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 got to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Boone 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.●

#### COMMENDING CLEAR CREEK 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 Clear Creek Amana 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 Clear Creek Amana Community School District received a 2005 Harkin grant totaling \$500,000, which it used to help build North Bend Elementary School in North Liberty. 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.

Excellent new schools like North Bend Elementary 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 dedicated educators in the Clear Creek Amana School District, which serves the towns of Tiffin, Oxford and North Liberty, as well as the historic Amana Colonies. The district has 1,420 students in grades K-12, and is growing steadily. It takes great pride in its teaching staff of 118 fully certified teachers, more than 30 percent of whom have been with the district at least 15 years. To have so many long-serving teachers is unusual in education today, and it speaks volumes about the quality of this school district, as well as the dedication and loyalty of its teaching staff.

I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Clear Creek Amana district. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of Lisa Green-Douglas and Jeanne Goldsmith who served as the co-chairs of the committee that won passage of the \$25.5 million bond issue to build a new elementary school and a new high school in the district. I would also like to recognize the members of the school board: Jim Seelman, Don Schaapveld, Tim Hennes, Kathi Huebner, Kevin Kinney, Elizabeth Momany, Matthew Croco, and Kathy Zimmerman as well as Superintendent Paula Vincent and elementary school principal Brenda Parker.

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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That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Clear Creek Amana 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.●