

profession, and I am grateful for his lifetime contribution to treating blood diseases and advocating for biomedical research.●

#### RECOGNIZING HUSSON UNIVERSITY

• Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I recognize a landmark event at one of our Nation's great success stories in higher education. On October 11, 2008, Husson College in my home State of Maine will become Husson University.

This designation is but the latest chapter in a history that is truly inspiring. It began more than a century ago, in 1898, when Chesley Husson founded the Shaw School of Business on the second floor of a building in downtown Bangor, offering instruction in such cutting-edge technologies of the day as typing and telegraphy. From the very start, Husson has remained a private school with an entrepreneurial approach and a commitment to educating young people of limited means.

Since then, Husson has grown tremendously, both in the size of its beautiful campus and in the range of the courses and degrees offered. It has grown because, through all those years, Husson has remained true to its founding principles of responding to needs, recognizing opportunities, and delivering real value.

Today, Husson offers a university-caliber range of both undergraduate and graduate degrees, including graduate professional degrees in business, health and education. It is home to the New England School of Communications, which offers audio, video, Web and computer programs, marketing, theater, and both print and broadcast journalism, and to the Bangor Theological Seminary, the only accredited graduate school of religion in Northern New England. In addition to its main campus in Bangor, Husson has developed a statewide reach with education centers in South Portland and Presque Isle, the Boat School in Eastport, and Unobskey College in Calais.

The Husson story is, however, about more than growth in enrollment, degree offerings, and campus locations. It also is a story of fostering personal growth, of preparing graduates for successful professional careers, and of promoting in each student the development of individual self-worth.

Before coming to the Senate, I had the honor of serving as the founding director of the Dyke Center for Family Business. I have never known a school, a faculty, or a student body more focused on preparing for a professional career than at Husson. Husson truly is remarkable in its dedication to this aspiration and its clear sense of purpose.

I saw in Husson students an emerging sense of personal pride, a sense of self-worth grounded in knowledge and confidence. This wonderful combination of hands-on learning, personal attention from the faculty, friendships that de-

velop with other students, and self-discovery is the Husson spirit. As I travel throughout Maine and across the Nation I find Husson alumni from every walk of life who possess that invaluable sense of self-worth.

Husson is more than a pretty campus in a small city that shines, as Thoreau put it, "like a star on the edge of night." Husson is a network. It is a network that includes teachers, architects, bankers, nurses and therapists, counselors, criminal justice administrators, hospital CEOs and doctors, corporate executives and entrepreneurs, heads of architectural firms, senior law partners and entrepreneurs. It is a network that reaches across the State of Maine and around the world.

If there is one thing today's college students do not need to be told, it is that the world is changing every day. A big part of the Husson spirit is anticipating change. Among Husson alumni there are business graduates who have become architects and attorneys, nurses who are hospital CEOs, and teachers who have become ministers. A Husson degree is more than proof that a student can do one thing well. By developing the skills to perfect one profession, Husson graduates learn the discipline, leadership skills, and problem-solving capabilities to change with the times. The Husson spirit is not just about being part of change, but of leading it.

The change I recognize today is evidence of that spirit. I congratulate Husson College as it becomes Husson University. The Husson story is remarkable, but I know that the most remarkable chapters have yet to be written.●

#### CHARLES 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 Charles City 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 Charles City Community School District received several fire safety grants totaling \$377,303. The 2001, 2003 and 2005 grants were used to upgrade fire safety systems at the high school, the middle school and Washington Elementary. The 2002 grant was used to upgrade the electrical system at the high school. 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 Charles City Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Mark Miller, Ralph Smith, Matt Spading, Bill Fenholz and Randy Heitz, and former board members, Sam Offerman, Dean Tjaden, Susan Ayers, Patti Emmel, Scott Dight, Virginia Ruzicka and DeLaine Freeseman. I would also like to recognize superintendent Andy Pattee, former superintendents David Bradley and Marty Lucas, buildings and grounds director Steve Otto and business manager Terri O'Brien.

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 Charles City 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.●

#### LOGAN-MAGNOLIA 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 Logan-Magnolia 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 Logan-Magnolia Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$1 million which it used to help build additional classrooms. These additional classrooms allowed the district to provide preschool, special education, and afterschool programs. 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 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 Logan-Magnolia Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Dennis Alvis, vice-president Kevin Mann, Kelly Gochenour, Mike Branstetter and Dan Cohrs, and former members, president Randy Koenig, Kris Earlywine, and Jim Noneman. I would also like to recognize superintendent James Hammrich, former superintendent Ed Gambs, principal Jim Makey, principal Katy Sojka, board secretary and business manager Karen Jacobsen, and secretaries Mary Johnsen, Cheryl Greenwood, and Margaret Straight.

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 Logan-Magnolia 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.●

#### NEVADA 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 Nevada 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 Nevada Community School District received several Harkin fire safety grants totaling \$ 154,000 which it used to install fire alarm systems at the elementary, middle and high schools as well as emergency lighting at the high school. 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 James Walker, the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Nevada Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Curt Hoff, Marcia Engler, David Laird, Marty Chitty and Mike Bates, as well as former members president Carol Holstine, Dan Morrical, Renee Larsen, Laura Lillard, Bill Van Sickle, Jim Niblock and Marty

Mortvedt. Building and grounds director Richard "Scottie" Scott, business manager Brian Schaeffer, and former superintendent Harold Hulleman were all instrumental in the application and implementation of the grant.

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 Nevada 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.●

#### OTTUMWA 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 Ottumwa 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 Ottumwa Community School District received several Harkin grants totaling \$3,129,313 which it used to help modernize and make safety improvements throughout the district. Harkin