

Senator and Student Receive National MENTOR's Spotlight Award



Everybody Wins! DC (EW!DC) made national news last spring when Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and 10-year-old Amii Young received the 2006 MENTOR Spotlight Award. The award pays tribute to outstanding mentoring pairs that exemplify the powerful impact mentoring relationships can have on the lives of young people. The duo is one of six pairs chosen from around the country who were honored in Washington, D.C.

When announcing the award, MENTOR Executive Director Gail Manza said: "By showcasing this truly special mentoring relationship, we hope to inspire more adults to join us in creating a culture of mentoring in America today. After all, if a busy Senator can take the time to be a mentor, so can we all."

Young, a 4th grade student at Brent Elementary, and Senator Harkin have been reading together for the past **three** years in EW!DC's Power Lunch program. Both say it has been a truly rewarding experience. Young credits Harkin for helping her begin setting goals, which include becoming a writer and maybe even President of the United States!

Together they set a goal of reading 60 books by May. However, this close-knit relationship goes beyond reading, vocabulary and selecting what to read from EW!DC's book cart; it's about friendship, commitment and learning from each other.

"We are so proud of Amii and Senator Harkin. Their weekly commitment is transforming both of their lives," says EW!DC Executive Director Mary Salander. "This award is a beautiful tribute also to all of the EW!DC Reading Mentors and their student partners who take time each week to share their lives with one another."

Harkin is one of some 1,500 adults who volunteer weekly in EW!DC programs to mentor and share the joy of reading with their student partners.

"Mentoring and reading with a student like Amii puts into perspective the critical role each of us plays in opening the doors of opportunity for all of our nation's children," says Harkin. "Our vision with Everybody Wins! DC is simple and straightforward, yet can bring about profound change in the lives of young students: expose children to literature, give them a positive role model, inspire them to read and you will make a difference in their lives."

MENTOR is a leading advocate for the expansion of mentoring initiatives nationwide. As part of the award, Freddie Mac and MENTOR will award a package that includes a \$5,000 educational scholarship for Amii Young, a \$500 award for Senator Harkin and a \$2,000 donation to EW!DC.