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**March 11, 2010  
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## **Everybody Wins! DC's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Features Magical Bond Created During Power Lunch**

The Everybody Wins! DC 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala was held on Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Capital Hilton in Washington, DC. While the Gala celebration was designed to serve as a salute to youth literacy and a celebration of the special Congressional Offices, companies and individuals who support Everybody Wins! DC through their volunteerism and contributions, the event accomplished even more. The focus of the evening quickly gravitated to the magical bond that develops between a mentor and student during Everybody Wins! DC's Power Lunch program and the lasting impact that the bond produces for both parties.

The event featured several notable champions for education including Secretary of Education Arne Duncan (Keynote Speaker), US Senator Tom Harkin (D), US Congressman Jim Moran (D), Vicki Kennedy and NBC's & MSNBC's Norah O'Donnell (Gala emcee) as well as many of the region's leading business leaders.

Senator Tom Harkin and Congressman Jim Moran received The Congressional Service Award, which was presented by Vicki Kennedy. Mrs. Kennedy currently participates as a Reading Mentor at Brent Elementary and carries on her husband's tradition of volunteering with Everybody Wins! DC. The Congressional Service Award was given to the congressional office on from the US Senate and House of Representatives with the most active Reading Mentors volunteering in the Power Lunch program. During their acceptance speeches, Senator Harkin, a twelve year Reading Mentor, highlighted the joy he witnesses in the program each week. According to Congressman Moran, "Everybody Wins! DC is leading the fight against illiteracy by providing the gift of reading to thousands of low income children in the Washington area. I'm proud to support their efforts and those of my staff who commit an hour a week reading in the program." Congressman Moran recognized his staff by having them join him on stage to receive the award.

Everybody Wins! DC's Minnon Friedman Mentor of the Year Award was presented to General Dynamics Director of Government Relations Gerry Lamb who has served as a Reading Mentor for the past 13 years at Tyler Elementary. Mr. Lamb was introduced by his mentee Damion, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student, who noted Gerry is so special because he's so fun and nice.

For more information on the Gala or Everybody Wins! DC's programs please contact Vinny Hughes at 202.347.9467 or [vhughes@everybodywinsdc.org](mailto:vhughes@everybodywinsdc.org).