

Urbana School District 116

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News Release

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Date: January 24, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Four Urbana School District #116 Schools Receive State Recognition *Illinois Honor Roll Highlights Academic Achievement*

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has honored Wiley Elementary, Martin Luther King Elementary, Thomas Paine Elementary, and Leal Elementary Schools for academic achievement in 2007. ISBE, in partnership with Northern Illinois University, delivers three kinds of awards to recognize schools that demonstrate outstanding academic performance. These awards make up the Illinois Honor Roll (<http://iirc.niu.edu/>).

King, Leal, and Thomas Paine Elementary Schools received a Spotlight School Award that honors high academic achievement in a school where at least 50-percent of the students are classified as coming from low-income families.

King, Thomas Paine, and Wiley Elementary Schools were given Academic Improvement Awards for sustaining an upward trend in achievement test scores for at least three years.

Martin Luther King Principal Jennifer Ivory-Tatum says, "I am glad that the students and teachers are being recognized for all of their hard work. We have worked very hard to build a culture for learning and teaching students to try their very best in all that they do whether school work, behaviorally or socially. It is nice to be rewarded for these efforts."

Leal Elementary School Principal Spencer Landsman adds, "I'm very proud of our students and really appreciate all the hard work of our staff. The Leal staff goes the extra mile to really know our students and understand their academic needs and then works even harder to meet the needs of each student. This allows all students at Leal to be successful."

District 116 Superintendent Dr. Preston Williams is proud of the schools' accomplishments saying, "We understand that this is not the end, but a continuation of excellence that we want to instill in all of our students. It is important when experts recognize our achievements, because it spurs us on to greater heights."

For more information about these awards, please contact Mark Schultz at 384-3650.

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Outstanding schools in an outstanding community!

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