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**HEADLINE:** The **Skillman Foundation** Announces 2006 Recipients of Good Schools Funding

**DATELINE:** DETROIT, April 24

**BODY:**

The **Skillman Foundation** has announced the winning Detroit elementary and middle schools in the second year of its multi-million dollar education initiative, Good Schools: Making the Grade.

All Detroit elementary and middle schools were invited to apply for Good Schools grants of up to \$100,000 and technical assistance from the Good Schools Resource Center at Marygrove College. After a review of applications and site visits by teams of educators, parents, business representatives and community leaders, the winning schools have been selected in three categories: High Performing, Improving and Aspiring. The individual grant amounts won by the schools will be announced at a Good Schools celebration on May 18, 2006. (The winning schools are listed below).

"So many Detroit elementary and middle schools are doing a good job and our initiative is helping other schools to improve and meet the challenges of educating our children. We want to provide quality educational options for families and students in Detroit by identifying and rewarding good schools and helping all schools make the grade," said Carol Goss, president and CEO of The **Skillman Foundation**.

Launched in 2004, The **Skillman Foundation's** Good Schools: Making the Grade initiative identifies nine indicators of student and school success and invites Detroit principals from public, private, charter and religious schools to apply for funding to maintain or attain these standards. Schools are able to assess their strengths and weaknesses through the application process. Elementary and middle schools have taken part in the initiative and high schools will participate this fall. Last year, a total of \$1.8 million was awarded to 64 Detroit elementary schools.

"We have been extremely encouraged and excited by the reaction schools have had to the

Good Schools: Making the Grade campaign," said Dr. Alison Harmon, program director in charge of the Good Schools initiative at The **Skillman Foundation**. "The schools are eager to be recognized for their innovative teaching methods and activities."

The following are being recognized as 2006 Good Schools: Making the Grade recipients:

#### High Performing Schools

Criteria: At least 75 percent of students must have met or exceeded acceptable achievement standards in two of the following three areas: mathematics, reading/language arts, and science. In addition, schools must have a 90 percent attendance rate and meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

#### Middle Schools; Type

- 1) Alonzo W. Bates Academy; Detroit Public School
- 2) Burton International; Detroit Public School
- 3) University of Detroit Jesuit Academy; Catholic School

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#### Elementary Schools; Type

- 4) David Ellis Academy; Public Charter School
- 5) Detroit Edison Public School Academy; Public Charter School
- 6) Fairbanks Elementary; Detroit Public School
- 7) Foreign Language Immersion & Cultural Studies (FLICS); Detroit Public School
- 8) Friends School; Private School
- 9) Jamieson Elementary; Detroit Public School
- 10) John R. King Academic & Performing Arts Academy; Detroit Public School
- 11) Mann Elementary; Detroit Public School
- 12) Stewart Elementary; Detroit Public School
- 13) Thirkell Elementary; Detroit Public School

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Continuing High Performing; Type

- 14) Chrysler Elementary; Detroit Public School
- 15) Alonzo W. Bates Academy; Detroit Public School
- 16) Samuel Gompers Elementary; Detroit Public School

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Improving Schools

Criteria: Schools must have at least a 10 percent student improvement over the prior year in two of the following three areas: mathematics, reading/language arts, and science. In addition, schools must have a 90 percent attendance rate and meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Middle Schools; Type

- 1) David Ellis Academy; Public Charter School
- 2) Friends School; Private School
- 3) Timbuktu Academy of Science & Technology; Public Charter School
- 4) Marvin L. Winans Academy of Performing Arts; Public Charter School
- 5) Woodward Academy; Public Charter School

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Elementary Schools; Type

- 6) Birney Elementary; Detroit Public School
- 7) Guyton Elementary ; Detroit Public School
- 8) Heilmann Elementary; Detroit Public School
- 9) Langston Hughes Academy ; Detroit Public School
- 10) Macomb Elementary; Detroit Public School
- 11) Sherrard Elementary; Detroit Public School

12) Spain Elementary; Detroit Public School

13) White Elementary; Detroit Public School

14) Marvin L. Winans Academy of Performing Arts; Public Charter School

15) Woodward Academy; Public Charter School

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#### Aspiring Schools

Criteria: At least 60 percent of students must have met or exceeded acceptable achievement standards in two of the following three areas: mathematics, reading/language arts, and science; or schools must have at least a 5 percent increase over the prior year of students meeting the achievement standards.

#### Middle Schools; Type

1) Ludington Magnet; Detroit Public School

2) Spain Middle; Detroit Public School

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#### Elementary Schools; Type

3) Ronald Brown Academy; Detroit Public School

4) Burt Elementary; Detroit Public School

5) Cooke Elementary; Detroit Public School

6) Hanneman Elementary; Detroit Public School

7) Richard Elementary; Detroit Public School

8) Van Zile Elementary; Detroit Public School

The criteria for identifying good schools in Detroit were developed by national educational advisors after The **Skillman Foundation** conducted extensive research and meetings with Detroit parents, students, educators, business representatives and community leaders. A Detroit task force of academic, business, political, government and community representatives further refined the nine Good School indicators.

A comprehensive guide to good schools in Detroit is being distributed every year to

neighborhoods and businesses. For more information about Good Schools: Making the Grade, contact the Good Schools Resource Center at 313-927-1418 or log on to <http://www.goodschoolsdetroit.org>.

Created in 1960, The **Skillman Foundation** is a private philanthropy committed to helping the children in metropolitan Detroit by providing resources to improve their homes, schools and neighborhoods. Each year, **Skillman** awards more than \$20 million in grants to non-profit organizations, schools and agencies in Wayne, Macomb and Oakland counties, with a special emphasis on organizations working in the city of Detroit.

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