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Miss District of Columbia Delivers Celebrity Reading At the Everybody Wins! DC Annual Gala

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 23 –**Miss District of Columbia Kate Michael** will share her experience as a mentor and take part in an interactive reading with her mentee at the Everybody Wins! DC (EW!DC) annual gala on **March 6, 2007**.

Miss District of Columbia is a mentor to Paige Pender, a 5th grade student at Brent Elementary School., and the pair has been reading together since the beginning of the school year.

EW!DC is the largest children’s literacy and mentoring organization in the Washington Metropolitan Area. The organization will host its gala at **the Capital Hilton, on 16 & K Streets, NW** from **6p.m.** until **9p.m.** This year's “Open books. Open doors.” themed gala celebrates children, mentors, community leaders and corporate partners through an evening of celebrity readings, leadership awards, musical entertainment and live and silent auctions.

Miss District of Columbia “is a young woman with a purpose,” according to her Web site. Her platform this year focuses on literacy. She is a mentor in the Everybody Wins! DC Power Lunch program, and in 2005 was named “The Most Beautiful Person on Capitol Hill” by *The Hill* newspaper.

Other highlights of the evening include: A performance by **The Compassionates**, featuring the honorable Josh Bolten, a presentation of the Corporate Leadership Award by **Congressman Ray LaHood (R-IL)**, and a celebrity reading. Also, **Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)** will share his experience as an EW!DC mentor. **Barbara Harrison of NBC News 4** will emcee the evening’s program.

Agenda:

- Cocktail reception and silent auction: 6 p.m.
- Dinner and Program: 7:30 p.m.
- Live Auction: 8:30 p.m.

Through its mentoring and literacy programs Everybody Wins! DC reaches more than 3,000 at-risk students each year in 31 Title I public elementary schools throughout the metro region. “EW!DC evaluations show that the children we serve have improved reading levels, higher academic achievement and increased self esteem,” says Mary Salander, Everybody Wins! DC executive director. “This event acknowledges those who are dedicated to opening doors for the children we serve.”

For more information, please visit www.everybodywinsdc.org or call Roopa Purohit at 202-347-9467, ext. 15.

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