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Everybody Wins! DC Executive Director Mary Salander Receives the Mike Fox Literacy Award

WASHINGTON, DC (Oct. 29, 2007) -- DC Learns presented Everybody Wins! DC (EW!DC) Executive Director Mary Salander with the Mike Fox Literacy Leader Award on Thursday October 25th at the DC Learns 11th Annual Literacy Awards Event. The Mike Fox literacy Award recognizes an individual who has used his or her leadership skills city-wide in a significant way to improve adult, family, or children's literacy in the District of Columbia.

EW!DC Board President Mark Young shares a commonly held perspective regarding Mary's impact on EW!DC and the community: "Mary Salander's tireless efforts for deserving, at risk children are an inspiration to everyone in our community. Those of us who work with Mary know of her devotion to and passion for the EW! mission of mentoring children and unlocking the door to opportunity through enhanced reading skills. All of us at Everybody Wins! are delighted that Mary has been recognized for this honor by DC Learns."

D.C. LEARNs is a 501©(3) organization, whose membership includes more than 70 organizations providing literacy instruction to children, youth, and adults in Washington, D.C. Together they serve over 34,000 individuals. Most of these organizations are community-based nonprofits, but also include individual, ancillary, and corporate members. D.C. LEARNs is modeled after successful literacy coalitions operating in many other cities and states.

Regional and national attention on EW!DC is nothing new under Mary's leadership. Within the past two years EW!DC mentors and Reading Pairs have been recognized with prestigious awards. The Bank of America Local Heroes Award was given to Minnon Friedman for her contribution to the community through mentoring in November 2006. In May 2006 MENTOR, a leading advocate and resource for the expansion of mentoring initiatives nationwide, presented Senator Harkin and Amii Young with one of six national awards honoring outstanding mentoring pairs that exemplify the powerful impact mentoring relationships can have on the lives of young people.

EW!DC is the largest children's literacy and mentoring organization in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Through its programs EW!DC reaches more than 3,000 underserved students each year in 32 Title I public elementary schools throughout the region.

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