

On March 11, <u>Everybody Wins DC (EWDC)</u> was scheduled to celebrate something incredibly special – 25 years of serving students across the region through the power of shared reading.

However, in light of growing concerns about the <u>coronavirus (COVID-19)</u> and in the interest of protecting the health of our extended EWDC family, I regret to announce that this year's Gala has been cancelled.

Please know that this was not an easy decision. We were incredibly excited to share this milestone with the people who helped us become the organization we are today, including **Senator Richard Burr** – a former Power Lunch mentor himself – who was to receive our Distinguished Service Award. In addition, we planned to recognize some amazing individuals, including the Mentors of the Year from each of our 12 Power Lunch schools and **Kelly Compton**, this year's Minnon Friedman Award winner.

Although we are disappointed, the well-being of our students, mentors, and supporters is more important and we look forward to finding other ways to celebrate our 25th anniversary with you in the future.

In the meantime, here are two easy steps you can take right now to support our wonderful Power Lunch students:

- <u>Join our Fund a Reader campaign</u> and help connect more deserving students with mentors for one-on-one reading time
- <u>Bid on one of our 100+ silent auction items</u>, including staycations, theater tickets, sports packages, and more!

Speaking of our silent auction, in light of tomorrow's cancellation we have decided to extend our silent auction and add some amazing new items. Be on the lookout for more information!

I apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding and continued support of EWDC, our mission, and our students. Please feel free to contact us at (202) 216-9467 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jordi Hutchinson
EWDC Executive Director