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D.C. LEARNs 12th Annual Literacy Awards Event Honors Washington D.C.'s Literacy Leaders

**Awards Event to be held Wednesday, November 19th at SunTrust Bank, New York Ave., NW
Nineteen Outstanding D.C. Literacy Volunteers, Learners, and Leaders to be Honored**

Washington, DC, November 18th, 2008 — D.C. LEARNs' 12th Annual Adult Literacy Awards Event takes place this Wednesday, November 19th, 2008, from 6:00-8:30 pm at the SunTrust Bank Building, 1445 New York Ave., NW. The formal program runs from 6:45pm-8:30 pm.

The Annual Literacy Awards Event is an evening devoted to celebrating the achievements made in literacy programs across the District, and recognizing the impact of literacy leaders, students, and volunteers. It's an exciting, emotional night that will include virtually every adult, child, and family literacy provider in the city. It's the only event where children, youth, family and adult literacy providers from across the District all come together—as many as 80 different programs may be represented.

This year's awards are divided into three categories:

1. **The Literacy Volunteer Award**, which recognizes an individual volunteer whose efforts have made a major contribution to a student; an adult, family, or children's literacy program; or to literacy volunteerism in the District.
2. **The Mike Fox Literacy Leader Award**, which recognizes an individual who has used his/her leadership skills in a significant way to improve adult, family, or children's literacy in the District.
3. **The Mary Harshaw Outstanding Adult Learner Award**, which recognizes an adult learner who has accomplished significant literacy goals and/or employed new literacy skills on behalf of other adult learners.

This year's nominees include learners, volunteers, and literacy leaders from **Academy of Hope**, **CentroNía**, the ESF/Even Start Multicultural Family Literacy Program at **Mary's Center**, **Experience Corps**, **Language ETC**, **Catholic Charities**, **Literacy Volunteers and Advocates**, **Living Wages**, and **Tellin' Stories**.

Many public officials and literacy supporters in the District are also expected to be on hand for the awards. Total expected attendance is estimated at 125-200 people. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jessica Young (jyoung@dclearns.org, or 202-331-0141 ext. 23).

D.C. LEARNs (<http://www.dclearns.org>) is a nonprofit citywide coalition of more than 80 members (<http://www.dclearns.org/members.html>), most of whom are organizations providing adult, family, and children's literacy services to the residents of Washington, D.C. Our mission is to work with these organizations to strengthen literacy services and present a strong, unified voice on the importance of literacy as an investment in the community. We work to raise public awareness of literacy issues, recruit volunteers, and provide the materials, research, training, and technical assistance needed to raise the quality of literacy services available to D.C. residents.

D.C. LEARNs manages a literacy hotline, 1-866-READ-OUT (1-866-732-3688), which helps people looking to improve their literacy skills—or volunteer—locate programs and resources available here in the District of Columbia.

D.C. LEARNs receives funding support for our projects from both private and public entities, including the Government of the District of Columbia.

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