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Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Announces Bright Spot Communities During COVID-19 Pandemic

METRO-OMAHA RAISE ME TO READ RECOGNIZED FOR WORK IN SUPPORTING EARLY SCHOOL SUCCESS

OMAHA, NE (APRIL 29, 2021) – The [Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#) (CGLR) announced today that it is naming Metro-Omaha [Raise Me to Read](#) as 2021 Bright Spot Community for its response to the COVID crisis last year.

CLGR is highlighting communities that developed exemplary or innovative responses to the COVID crisis, including new or adaptive roles, programs, organizational relationships, collaborations, or policies. In particular, the Campaign is recognizing communities for crafting effective solutions that are replication-worthy and/or deserving of being sustained during the post-COVID period.

CGLR is a collaborative effort by funders, nonprofit partners, business leaders, government agencies, states, and communities to ensure that more children in low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career and active citizenship. The campaign focuses on promoting early school success as an important building block for children in economically challenged families and communities.

“It was a pleasure to highlight the work in which our partners, allies and local entities engaged in answer to the challenges wrought by the pandemic,” said Kathleen Knudsen, Facilitator of Metro-Omaha Raise Me to Read. “The varied strategies devised at the city and state provided direct and meaningful assistance to families and students in addition to support, learning, and planning for educators. It is gratifying to receive national recognition for the immediate reaction and planned response executed by dedicated Nebraskans.”

The Metro Omaha spotlight focused on community work by **The Empowerment Network, United Way of the Midlands, Food Bank of the Heartland, The Northstar Foundation, Partnership 4**

Kids, the Omaha and Millard Public School districts, and The Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties. For example, the Learning Community delivered supplies for young children, provided educational packets for parents in need of support for their school children, purchased nearly 70 chrome books, and offered parent courses online. Faculty in the **Teacher Education Department at UNO** offered additional sections of their graduate level Online Teaching and Learning course to teachers with tuition paid for by the **Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC)**. With the intent to foster a shared Nebraska understanding of responsibility and accountability, the **Nebraska Department of Education** created the site Launch Nebraska, which featured tools, actions, opportunities, and resources to support the complex planning and preparation needed by Nebraska school systems.

In Metro-Omaha, the Raise Me to Read campaign is supported by its backbone, MOEC, (Metropolitan Educational Consortium) and partners The Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy County, University of Nebraska Omaha, and the United Way of the Midlands.

The Council Bluffs/Pottawattamie County Raise Me to Read campaign was also recognized by CGLR.

About the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Launched in 2010, the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is a collaborative effort of funders, nonprofit partners, business leaders, government agencies, states, and communities across the nation to ensure that many more children from low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career and active citizenship. Since its launch, CGLR has grown to include more than 300 communities, representing 45 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and two provinces in Canada — with 5,000+ local organizations and 510 state and local funders (including 200+ United Ways). To learn more, visit gradelevelreading.net and follow the movement on Twitter @readingby3rd. Learn more about local efforts at [Raise Me to Read](#) and follow us on Twitter @MetroOmaha_RMtR.