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Global Academy in Columbia Heights recognized by business leaders for closing the academic achievement gap

*Global is one of two public elementary schools to receive the
2011 Minnesota's Future Award from the Minnesota Business Partnership*

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS – The Minnesota Business Partnership today presented Global Academy director, Helen Fisk, with a check for \$10,000 and a computer-based learning center from IBM to recognize the school's success in raising overall student performance and closing the achievement gap between white, non-white and low-income students.

Minnesota Business Partnership executive director Charlie Weaver, IWCO Direct Vice President of Human Resources Bev Lohs, and Red Wing Shoe CEO Bill Sweasy, presented the award to Helen Fisk at the school today.

"We call this the Minnesota's Future Award because a quality education is critical to every child's future and the future of our state," said Weaver. "We need to recognize, encourage and learn from schools like Global Academy which teach us that 'poverty' and 'race' don't have to be synonymous with 'low achievement' and 'high failure.'"

"As thrilled as Global Academy is to receive this award, the Minnesota Business Partnership is every bit as pleased to present it, with the spirit that the funds will harness student interests and passion in the learning process," said Lohs.

The Minnesota Business Partnership is comprised of chief executives of more than 100 of Minnesota's largest employers. For the past six years, the Partnership has presented the Minnesota Future's Award to two public elementary schools, one in the Twin Cities and one in greater Minnesota, that serve a high percentage of low-income and/or minority students, and are closing the achievement gap based on MCA-II reading and math scores.

- Global Academy's student reading performance is on par with the overall statewide average, even though 75% of Global's students speak English as a second language.
- Global Academy's low-income and African-American students consistently out-perform their peers statewide.

The Minnesota's Future Award includes a \$10,000 cash grant and a Young Explorer learning center made possible by Partnership members Accenture, IWCO Direct, Dorsey & Whitney, Vision-Ease and IBM.



Global Academy, and Longfellow Elementary in Rochester, will be honored before 800 business, community and political leaders at the Partnership's Annual Dinner on October 17 in Minneapolis. Previous Recipients of the Minnesota's Future Award include:

- 2010: Sibley East-Gaylord Elementary, Gaylord; Concordia Creative Learning Academy, St. Paul
- 2009: King Elementary, Deer River; Dayton's Bluff Elementary, St. Paul
- 2008: J.W. Smith Elementary, Bemidji; Ames Elementary, St. Paul
- 2007: Kelliher Elementary, Kelliher; Farnsworth Aerospace Elementary, St. Paul
- 2006: Nettleton Magnet School, Duluth; Sheridan Elementary, St. Paul

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About the Minnesota Business Partnership

The Minnesota Business Partnership is comprised of more than 100 chief executives of Minnesota's largest employers. Together, MBP members employ more than 1.8 million people worldwide, including 400,000 in Minnesota. Individually, MBP members contribute millions of dollars each year to Minnesota schools and education-related nonprofit organizations. In addition, members support a number of programs, such as the Minnesota's Future Awards, through the Minnesota Business Partnership Education Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)3.

2011 Minnesota's Future Award Recipient: Global Academy

	Low income	Ltd English	White	Black	Asian	Hispanic	Am. Indian
Global	91	75	31	66	2	1	0
State	40	10	75	10	6	7	2

	Reading (All Grades) % students at grade level			Math (All Grades) % students at grade level		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
State	74	74	77	71	74	61*
Global	53	72	74	41	78	51

Yellow = Score equal to or within 5 points of statewide average. **Green** = Score above statewide average.

* The 2011 MCA-II math test was a more difficult test than the one administered in previous years.



