



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Vincenzo Capone
Overcoming Obstacles
125 Maiden Lane, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10038
Phone: 212-406-7488 x132

Kansas City, Missouri School District to Receive Overcoming Obstacles Award for Achievement in Education

New York, NY – August 2009 – The Kansas City, Missouri School District has been chosen by Overcoming Obstacles as its 2009 Achievement in Education Award recipient for their continued commitment to and highly successful implementation of the Overcoming Obstacles Life Skills Program. The award will be presented to them at the 2009 Overcoming Obstacles Achievement Awards dinner to be held at Chelsea Piers in New York City on Thursday, October 22nd.

In 2003, the Kansas City, Missouri School District (KCMSD) implemented a new reform initiative in its high schools, called Achievement First (AF). AF focuses on a number of strategies, one being the Family Advocacy System (FAS), which bridges the gap between school and home, creating regular opportunities for students, families, teachers and staff to work together to enhance a student's success in the classroom. To accomplish this, the District created a Family Advocacy Period where family advocates meet with their students for 30-45 minutes each week, during which both individual meetings and group activities are held.

In the 2006-07 school year, students and advocates were given the opportunity to voice what they thought was missing from FAS, and both groups suggested finding a curriculum and activities that could be used during the Family Advocacy Period to discuss and work on issues that were relevant to the students' lives. After researching various life skills and character education curricula, the district selected Overcoming Obstacles and purchased several binders to show to the advocates of FAS. After being reviewed by teachers representing all of the schools in the district, the Overcoming Obstacles curriculum was unanimously chosen to be taught in hundreds of KCMSD classes.

"Overcoming Obstacles has been a great resource for our teachers" says Kristina Collins, Family Advocacy Specialist of KCMSD. "The curriculum allows flexibility in the way the lessons can be taught and is relevant to students' lives and issues that they deal with on a daily basis."

The Overcoming Obstacles Achievement Awards Dinner will be held on Thursday, October 22 at Chelsea Piers in New York, NY. For more information about the Achievement Awards and Overcoming Obstacles, visit www.overcomingobstacles.org or call us toll free at (877) 840-9606.

About Overcoming Obstacles

Community for Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization, is the publisher of the Overcoming Obstacles Life Skills Program—curriculum materials, teacher training, and ongoing support. Its mission is to ensure all young people learn the communication, decision making, and goal setting skills they need to be successful in life and, to date, has positively impacted the lives of over 2 million. The curriculum covers more than 20 important life skills, is uniquely comprehensive, and engages middle and high school students through its 600+ activity-based lessons. Its modular format offers educators the flexibility to incorporate life skills into core academic classes, a stand-alone course, or after-school settings for an entire school year. For more information on the program, visit www.overcomingobstacles.org.