



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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*Hamtramck Students Recognized for Creating a Smoke-Free School District
Michigan Surgeon General and State Senator Present Awards*

(Hamtramck) - The Hamtramck school district is now a 24/7 smoke-free zone thanks to students at Kosciuszko Middle School. The kids who made it possible are part of the Generation With Promise (GWP) Project which aims to prevent childhood obesity and smoking in adolescents. The GWP project is led by Michigan Surgeon General Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom and funded by a \$5 million dollar grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation through the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH).



Kosciuszko Principal Nuo Ivezaj and Hamtramck Superintendent Thomas Niczay receive the proclamation from State Sen. Martha Scott (D-Highland Park) and Michigan Surgeon General Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom.

During an award ceremony on Tues., June 2 at the Hamtramck High School Community Center, the GWP Kosciuszko Student Action Team (SAT) was recognized for its efforts with a certificate from MDCH Director Janet Olszewski presented by Dr. Wisdom, and a proclamation from State Sen. Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) who also represents Hamtramck.

The Kosciuszko Middle School campus was smoke-free between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., but students noticed that smoking was taking place outside of those hours. Inspired by their ability to

create change through Generation With Promise, the students made a presentation to Principal Nuo Ivezaj. Ivezaj took their concerns to district officials and in turn, the school board decided to expand the current no smoking rule to a 24/7 no smoking policy across the district.

“The superintendent and the school board are to be commended for responding to the students and taking this issue seriously,” said Dr. Wisdom. “We want the Student Action Teams to know that this is the kind of policy change they can effect as leaders in their school and community,” she stated.

“I hope we can make this a statewide policy,” added Senator Scott. “I’ve been working on making this issue a priority for all communities. We need to make sure that everyone can breathe freely in non-smoking facilities across the state,” said Scott.



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The GWP Student Action Team has been busy making changes to the school environment that will mean healthy food and more physical activity for teachers and students.

Kosciuszko has used part of the GWP grant money to fund the purchase of a salad bar and a smoothie machine in the school cafeteria. They have also purchased weightlifting equipment, treadmills and other exercise gear that is accessible to all of the students outside of physical education classes.

Ivezaj expressed pride and gratitude at how the SAT has changed the school environment to make it healthier for everyone. “Generation With Promise has helped these students understand that they have a voice. Teachers also understand that in order for kids to function in the classroom, they must eat better, engage in physical activity and learn in a healthy smoke-free environment,” explained Ivezaj.



Dr. Wisdom with the Kosciuszko SAT.

Sixteen GWP Level One schools receive a \$25,000 grant. The project links Gov. Granholm’s

Cities of Promise initiative in underserved communities with MDCH and the Michigan Steps Up healthy lifestyles initiative. The four-year project empowers Student Action Teams to drive change related to health priorities for their schools.

In addition to the Cities of Promise, other Generation With Promise partners are the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness, Health & Sports/Michigan Fitness Foundation, Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Action for Healthy Kids Coalition, Detroit, Wayne, Oakland, and Berrien county health departments, Healthy Kids Healthy Michigan Coalition, Henry Ford Health System, the Michigan State University Extension, University of Michigan and Wayne State University.

Other Level One schools receiving grant money include Burns Elementary/Middle School, Hutchins/McMichael Elementary/Middle School, J.F. Nichols Elementary School, Taft Middle School, Trix Elementary/Middle School, Greenfield Union Elementary/Middle School, Mark Twain School & Academy, Ronald McNair Technical Middle School, Murphy Elementary/Middle School, Phoenix Multicultural Academy and Peter Vetal Elementary/Middle School—all in **Detroit**; two GWP schools from **Benton Harbor**, Fair Plain Renaissance Middle School and Hull Middle School; Madison Middle School in **Pontiac**; and Barber School of the Gifted and Talented in **Highland Park**.



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About the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

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For further information, please visit the Foundation's Web site at www.wkkf.org.