

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Brooklyn-Guernsey-Malcolm Community School District received a Harkin Grant totaling \$435,824 which was used to help renovate the high school. The district also received three fire safety grants totaling \$95,800 to upgrade the fire alarm system and make other improvements. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Brooklyn-Guernsey-Malcolm Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Beverly Rens, Bob Parker, Travis Solem, Arlene Ford, Kyle Montgomery, Ed Kline, Larry Pendarvis and former board members Gaynell Conner and LaVerne Kriegel. I would also like to recognize superintendent Brad Hohensee, former superintendent Terry McLeod and high school principal Rick Radcliffe.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Brooklyn-Guernsey-Malcolm Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish

them a very successful new school year.●

#### CENTRAL CLINTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Central Clinton Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

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The Central Clinton Community School District received a 2000 Harkin grant totaling \$259,750 which it used to help build an addition for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs at Ekstrand Elementary. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves.

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#### CLARKSVILLE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

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I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Clarksville Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

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The Clarksville Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$139,500 which it used to help renovate classrooms in the elementary school. The district also received two fire safety grants totaling \$50,000 to install smoke and heat detectors, emergency lighting, electromagnetic devices and to make other improvements throughout the district. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

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