

NEWS RELEASE

THE CAMPAIGN FOR
GRADE-LEVEL READING

3RD GRADE
READING
≡ SUCCESS
MATTERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OVER 190 COMMUNITIES STEP UP TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR EXEMPLARY PROGRESS IN ADVANCING EARLY LITERACY

*Fifty-Three Communities Competing for All-America City Awards
and 139 Communities Eligible for Pacesetter Honors*

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 16, 2017 – The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, a collaborative effort to increase reading proficiency among children in low-income families, today announced that 193 communities from 33 states filed Self-Assessments with 53 communities competing for All-America City (AAC) Awards and 139 competing for Pacesetter Honors.

The GLR Community Self-Assessment, a rigorous process designed to help communities reflect on what's working and prepare for the next phase of learning and action, served as the application for the 2017 AAC Awards and provided the basis for identifying communities eligible for 2016 Pacesetter Honors.

"We are thrilled that over 60 percent of the GLR Network answered the call to assess their progress and the impact of their work. This is even more evidence of sustainable momentum toward closing the reading proficiency gap," said Ralph Smith, managing director of the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. "We are proud of these communities and the numerous organizations and individuals behind them for joining forces and working tirelessly to assure more hopeful futures for our nation's most vulnerable children."

The All-America City Award is America's oldest and most prestigious community recognition. In 2012, NCL and the GLR Campaign partnered to make the All-America City Awards, held in Denver, Colo., the official kickoff of the GLR Campaign with 124 communities signing on as Charter Members of the GLR Communities Network. Since then, the Network has grown to include over 300 communities in 42 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

This year, the GLR Campaign is returning to Denver to host a full week of celebration and collaboration on sustainable efforts to increase reading proficiency nationwide. From June 13-14, local, state and national funders that support early literacy will join together for the 2017 Funder Huddle. Attendees will have an opportunity to meet other funders in the grade-level reading community, share challenges and successes, learn from and with each other, and collectively drive toward bigger, stronger and better results.

From June 14-16, hundreds of civic and community leaders, public officials and educators from across the country will come together for the 2017 All-America City Awards Gathering to recognize communities that exemplify outstanding civic accomplishments and are leading the way on grade-level reading efforts. Communities nationwide are invited to attend the AAC Awards Gathering to reflect and share what they have learned and explore how to achieve even bigger outcomes. Hotel and registration information will be available later this month at gradelevelreading.net/aacaward.

AAC Award winners in 2017 will be communities that:

- Demonstrate they have moved the needle on outcomes for low-income children in at least two of the following community solutions areas: school readiness, school attendance, summer learning and/or grade-level reading.
- Address the National Civic League's key process criteria of civic engagement, cross-sector collaboration and inclusiveness.
- Bonus points will be awarded for communities that have a plan for sustainability and for aligning, linking, stacking and bundling the most promising and proven programs, practices and strategies.

Pacesetter Honors are among the highest awards presented exclusively to GLR Campaign communities. Pacesetters are identified based on meeting the following criteria:

1. Demonstrating population-level, community-wide measurable progress for low-income children on at least one of the following solution areas: school readiness, school attendance, summer learning and grade-level reading.

and/or
2. Demonstrating exemplary work in one or more aspects of the Campaign's framework for success, scale, and sustainability:
 - Aligning, linking, stacking, and bundling the most proven and promising strategies, programs and practices.
 - Integrating efforts to support parent success and address the health determinants of early school success.
 - Driving with data to establish baselines, set targets, track progress, disaggregate for subgroups, create early warning and response systems, tailor strategies and ensure shared accountability.
 - Building cross-sector collaboration, community-wide mobilization and a coalition of local funders committed to achieving the result.
 - Prioritizing children and families in public housing and reaching those children who are especially vulnerable (children with learning differences, foster care, homeless, incarcerated parents, dual-language learners).
 - Utilizing technology to expand reach, mobilize constituencies, improve service delivery, and/or streamline operations.

Pacesetter communities will be formally honored at the 2017 Funder Huddle held June 13-14 during Grade-Level Reading Week in Denver, Colorado. To view previous Pacesetter Honors, visit gradelevelreading.net/pacesetter.

About the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Launched in May 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, the GLR Campaign has grown to include more than 300 communities, representing 42 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands with 2,300 local organizations and 250 state and local funders (including 130 United Ways). To learn more, visit gradelevelreading.net and follow the movement on Twitter [@readingby3rd](https://twitter.com/readingby3rd).

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