

## **Partnership Recognition Comments by Dr. Dave Markward, Superintendent**

*I'm pleased to have the opportunity to celebrate with you this evening.*

*Thank you for your support of our schools. We are excited about the many opportunities you have given us. Your support moves us closer to the dreams and visions that we endeavor to transform to realities.*

*You give us your time, talents, resources...and you give us the intangible that is realized just knowing that you are here for us and that you care.*

*Each year as I stand before you, I relate that I feel especially good for our students. They deserve the best we can give them and you are certainly helping us provide that for them.*

*I was recently given a gift of the book Everyday Greatness: Inspiration for a meaningful life. Everyday Greatness... Isn't that something we'd all like to experience? The book shares insights and commentary from Steven Covey, the well-respected author of 7 Habits of Highly Effective People and the 8<sup>th</sup> Habit.*

*Dr. Covey speaks of an age when parenthood and family ties are being challenged as perhaps never before. He describes an era where parents struggle to raise children while schools and youth are being bombarded and often overwhelmed by negativism and sensitive social dilemmas. Yet he goes on to note that he continues to find many who - by day and night - do their best to provide sustenance and nurturance for children. I truly believe that this evening I am in the midst of such individuals, and for that I am most grateful.*

*The devastating experiences our community has endured since June 13 have been extraordinary. Equally extraordinary has been the response of our citizens to reach out and help those in need. Specifically in our school district we have witnessed an increase in already unprecedented high levels of support from our business partners to help in classrooms and departments. The collaborative effort between the City, County, and District is forming the basis of a better way of doing business together now and in the future. Partnerships of all stripe and variety will become even more vital as we continue to recover AND as a way to best prepare students with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills.*

*From the core of my soul, I thank each of you for your contribution to this unique but most important culture of collaboration. On Monday, June 16, three days after the crest of the flood the District leadership team gathered to begin our recovery efforts. From the first hour of the first meeting, we dedicated ourselves to not only be back, but to be back and better than we were before the flood.*

*I suspect that there were those who, upon hearing that bold declaration, thought we may have collectively gone a bit daft. But in witnessing what I have witnessed over the last 8 months, it has proven itself. I truly believe that we are not only coming back, but we are doing so in a better way.*

*During my own journey as superintendent, I have encountered people from all walks of life and every area of our community who are genuinely good and who have done much to contribute to our recovery. I have not been surprised, of course, because those of you here tonight are among those people. You were with us long before the floodwaters rose, and we are grateful to know that you will be with us long after that recovery is complete. That's just the way you are.*

*Let me conclude by saying how blessed I feel to be in your midst this evening and to be able to witness your everyday greatness across our wonderful school system. You truly do inspire me, as you inspire all of those around you to do great things for our students.*

*Thank you.*