



MEDIA INVITED - MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release: January 31, 2020

More information: Project Flight – Dr. Geraldine Bard or Dr. Elizabeth Cappella,
716-858-8608
Library - Joy Testa Cinquino, 716-858-7182, testaj@buffalolib.org

D'YOUVILLE CAMPUS PORTER SCHOOL WINS DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. "LEADERS ARE READERS" SCHOOL AWARD FOR LITERACY

WHAT: Ceremony honoring Buffalo's D'Youville Porter Campus School, winner of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Leaders Are Readers" School Award for Literacy. The school will receive recognition and each student will receive a book.

WHEN: Friday, February 7 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

WHERE: D'Youville Porter Campus School, 255 Porter Ave., Buffalo, NY 14201

*Governor's Office, Project Flight, State Agencies & the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
to Honor D'Youville Porter Campus School on Friday, February 7 @ 10 a.m.*

"A book can change the way a person looks at the world."

Local non-profit Project Flight, in partnership with the Governor's Office, the Office of Children and Family Services, the Office of MWBE and Community Relations of the New York State Office of General Services, and the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, is proud to recognize **Buffalo Public School #3 D'Youville Porter Campus School** as the winner of the **2020 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Leaders Are Readers" literacy initiative.**

Project Flight, which works to promote literacy throughout the Western New York area and the world, founded the statewide initiative in 2004. Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries have historically been the purveyors of literacy for all who walk through their doors and became a partner in the initiative in 2014.

This year's winning school will receive over 5,000 books worth over \$100,000. Along with the promise to promote literacy in school and at home, the D'Youville Porter Campus School will provide programming that promotes Dr. King's vision of equality and justice through literacy. The school will also strengthen their relationship with the

Isaías González-Soto Branch Library, located at 280 Porter Ave., across the street from the school campus.

Project Flight works to ensure every child has a book of their own and can read at grade level. They believe that, whether at home or at school, children should live in a literate environment and that literacy is an entree out of poverty. This is a special concern in Buffalo, where almost 50 percent of children live in poverty.

"Our vision is to make sure all children will increase their aptitude in literacy to gain a wealth of knowledge that will spread throughout their lives and to their families," said Project Flight Co-Director, Dr. Geraldine Bard.

"Education uplifts the power to fulfill dreams," added Project Flight Co-Director, Dr. Elizabeth Cappella. "The legacy of literacy is democracy and freedom."

"Having access to books allows children to open their imagination, expand their creativity and explore their interests," said Library Director Mary Jean Jakubowski. "Reading supports the notion that learning can be fun. The more you read, the more you know, and the more you grow. The possibilities are infinite."

This year's selection committee was made up of Chair Ms. Jakubowski, Dr. Cappella and Dr. Bard.

The 2020 Selected Recipient:

BPS #3 – D'Youville Porter Campus School

Principal: Freddy Barrera Assistant Principals: Fred Sales & Kristy Giardina

D'Youville Porter Campus School believes that an equal and high-quality education is every child's civil right, putting children and families first to ensure high academic achievement for all. The school serves grades Pre-K through eight and strongly supports the notion that "knowledge is power."

Staff work to establish a culture of excellence that incorporates rigorous instruction, accountability and parent and community partnerships that ensure that every student will have the confidence, knowledge, thinking skills, character and hope to assume responsibility for his or her life and contribute to the lives of others.

###