



For Details, Contact:

Jeffrey A. May
Phone (815) 774-8915
E-mail: jmay@grundy.k12.il.us

Education Service Network
1320 Union St.
Morris, IL 60450
Phone (815) 941-3231
Fax (815) 942-5384

For Immediate Release

Premier Academy Staff Pull Together in Support of Injured Principal

Joliet, IL September 4, 2007: Two weeks ago, an unthinkable tragedy made an impact on Premier Academy, a Joliet alternative school operated by the Education Service Network. Premier High School’s principal Charisse Beach was attacked in her home and critically beaten and stabbed. Her 19-year-old son was arrested and charged.

“The news these days is much more positive,” said John Elder, Premier Behavior and Attendance Coach. “Charisse is out of the hospital and continuing her remarkable recovery. The staff and students continue to work together in Charisse’s absence and are going about their important tasks of teaching and learning.”

Beach was released Friday from Saint Joseph Medical Center and her outlook for recovery is excellent. She said she wanted people to know how much she appreciates the many ways people have supported her:

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank my family, friends, ESN employees, our sending schools, and particularly the Premier High School staff for their outpouring of love and support during this challenging time. Although my injuries are substantial, I am recovering at a miraculous rate.”

Beach said she foresees a gradual transition to her full-time duties at Premier, starting with a part-time schedule after she receives a doctor’s release to work.

Until Beach returns, one of the Premier teachers is serving as interim principal. Dianna Gliwa is a retired special education administrator with the Type 75 administrative certification required for the position. She has spent the past three-and-a-half years as a part-time literacy teacher at Premier. Prior to retiring, she spent 29 years as assistant director of special education services at Lockport Area Special Education Co-operative.

ESN Director Jeffrey May said he is proud of the way Premier and ESN staff reacted to the tragedy.

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

.....

more

“In spite of going through their own stages of shock and grief over what happened, they kept their focus on the students here at Premier,” May said. “The staff made sure these vulnerable youth had access to counselors to help them process what had happened. They pulled together to make sure the principal’s work was done, and they kept officials at our sending schools informed about what was happening at Premier. They are a very dedicated team.”

Premier Academy is part of the Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP) operated by ESN and administered by Jennifer Tarrant, Will County Regional Superintendent of Schools. More information about Premier Academy can be found at the ESN web site at www.educationservicenetwork.org.