

For Immediate Release

Contact: Susan Hoyer, shoyer@op97.org

Jennifer Marcello, Special Olympics Illinois | jmarcello@soill.org

Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School Selected as Special Olympics Illinois Unified Champion School Award Recipient

April 25, 2017– Special Olympics Illinois is proud to announce Gwendolyn Brooks has been selected as the recipient of the 2017 Area 5 Unified Champion School Award.

Special Olympics Unified Champion School is an education and sports based strategy powered by an engaged youth community that increases athletic and leadership opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities. All of this success helps to create communities of acceptance for all.

In Illinois there are currently 210 Unified Schools across the state. Each of these schools utilizes provided tools and resources to create inclusive school communities through Unified Sports, Leadership opportunities and whole school involvement activities. Many schools across the state are empowering their students to engage in these opportunities and become true agents of change.

Special Olympics Illinois is thrilled to work with Gwendolyn Brooks as they have risen to the top of the class providing true inclusive experiences to their students and excelling in all three categories of Unified Champion Schools activities.

Gwendolyn Brooks has gone above and beyond in their school community to activate their students and give them the tools, skills, dispositions and opportunities to build change and encourage a true culture of inclusiveness.

For more information about the Unified Champion School program please contact Jennifer Marcello, Director - Young Athletes / Unified Champion Schools, via jmarcello@soill.org

About Special Olympics Illinois

Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit organization offering year-round training and competition in 19 sports for more than 22,500 athletes with intellectual disabilities and nearly 20,000 Young Athletes ages 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics transforms the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, allowing them to realize their full potential in sports and in life. Special Olympics programs enhance physical fitness, motor skills, self-confidence, social skills and encourage family and community support. If you are interested in learning more about Special Olympics Illinois, volunteering or providing financial support to help make Special Olympics programs possible, contact your local Special Olympics agency, call [800-394-0562](tel:800-394-0562) or visit our website at www.soill.org.