



PRESS RELEASE -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 11, 2012

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LILA Accepts National Promising Practice Award

Forest Lake, MN – The Character Education Partnership (CEP) presented Lakes International Language Academy (LILA) with a 2012 National Promising Practices in Character Education Award on November 3 in Washington, DC. The award honors schools that have developed specific, unique and effective educational practices that promote character development.

LILA won the award for its partnership with the Minnesota Twins' Emerging Markets Department to "Celebrate Diversity," a program to encourage and inspire international-mindedness and build communities across cultural boundaries. The Twins partnership with LILA is beginning its fourth year.

In the partnership, LILA students use their world language skills to bridge cultural gaps and help make everyone feel like they are the heart of Twins Territory. LILA students, staff and parents have helped organize and participate in special Twins events, including a community baseball clinic, Twins Caravan, the annual Jackie Robinson essay contest, and Spanish radio broadcasts of Twins games. In 2011, students sang "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" in Japanese during the seventh inning stretch at Target Field to help welcome the Twins' new Japanese player Tsuyoshi Nishioka.

Julie Lundgren, LILA CFO and founding board member, shared the practice at a poster session at CEP's National Forum on Character Education. CEP also features winning practices in their annual publication and on their website.

LILA Assistant Director Shannon Peterson said, "These character awards are particularly meaningful to us at LILA, where we value whole child education. The Minnesota Twins baseball club shares equally in this honor, and we are grateful for the opportunity to work with them to celebrate the cultural richness and diversity in our area."

LILA is a public elementary and International Baccalaureate World School teaching grades K to 6 in a Spanish or Mandarin Chinese immersion environment. Learn more about LILA's award-

winning programs and teachers; call 651-464-0771 to join upcoming tours on Wednesday, November 14 and Tuesday, November 27.

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PHOTO: LILA CFO Julie Lundgren accepts a 2012 National Promising Practices in Character Education Award from Character Education Partnership President Charles Haynes in Washington, DC.