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## Project Rebuild names school attendance winners

Contributed By:

### Banneker and Steel City Academy claim trophies

Winners of Gary's Citywide Attendance Contest were recognized at the recent Gary City Council meeting.

Trophies for top attendance for 2017 were awarded by the Project Rebuild Foundation to Banneker Elementary School and Steel City Academy.

Gary City Court Judge pro-tem Inga Lewis Shannon and court administrator Tara Nelson presented the trophies to Niki McCoy for Steel City Academy Elementary School, Jazmin Pratt for Steel City Academy High School, and Atty. Tracey Coleman for Banneker Elementary School.

Started in 2015 as part of the city's participation in the national Attendance Awareness Month initiative, this friendly competition between schools within Gary serves as an incentive for all of them to promote attendance and school spirit citywide, said Jena Bellizi of the Indiana Parenting Institute, a PRB partner. "It is our hope that this contest proves a concrete step towards reducing chronic absence in Gary's schools, which significantly impacts achievement."

PRB's core partners – the Gary City Court, the Gary Police Department, the Lake County Prosecutor's Office, Indiana Parenting Institute, and Clark Road Genesis Center – believe Gary's truancy problem can be successfully eradicated by incorporating a rehabilitative component to an expedient truancy referral hearing process, and by the involvement of key community partners to achieve program success.

The foundation aims to reduce the problems of truancy, reunite families, and make the community safer by transforming the lives of its program participants.



JUDGE SHANNON, JAZMIN PRATT, NIKI MCCOY, TARA NELSON, AND ATTY. COLEMAN



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