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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Building Bright Futures and Midlands Mentoring Partnership Announce New Executive Director, Grant Recipients and Mentor Fair**

(Omaha, Neb.) May 26, 2010 – Midlands Mentoring Partnership (MMP) is pleased to announce the addition of Deborah Neary, who will serve as MMP executive director. She joins the board of the MMP to support mentoring activities in Omaha and will oversee the distribution of grant funds for mentoring organizations.

MMP Board President, Daniel Padilla, said that he is delighted that Neary will be leading the partnership's efforts. "We have many exciting plans for the year ahead and know that Deborah is the right person to be leading these efforts," Padilla said. "Deborah has a proven track record for high achievement and a passion for helping others especially children."

Neary holds a master's degree in public administration and history and has nearly 20 years of non-profit management experience that includes the arts, healthcare and social services. She worked in management, marketing and fundraising at Durham Western Heritage Museum for 15 years and with Alegent Health Bergan Mercy Hospital Foundation for two years.

Prior to accepting the position with MMP, Neary served the American Red Cross for five years in executive management and fundraising positions. During this time, she served as the deputy director for the American Red Cross Heartland Chapter and as the executive director of the Loess Hills Chapter in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Under her leadership, the Loess Hills chapter completed a \$5 million capital campaign for a new building.

Neary is an active member of the Rotary Club of Omaha West and was nominated to serve as a board member beginning July 1, 2010. She is also a graduate of Leadership Omaha Class 31 and is involved in many community and philanthropic organizations in Omaha.

Midlands Mentoring Partnership (MMP) is a 12-member collaboration designed to raise public awareness and support for high quality youth mentoring programs. Their efforts include improving youth mentoring through education, best practices and resource-sharing; increasing the capacity of mentoring programs in recruiting /retaining more mentors and carrying out recommendations made by the Building Bright Futures Mentoring Task Force.

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