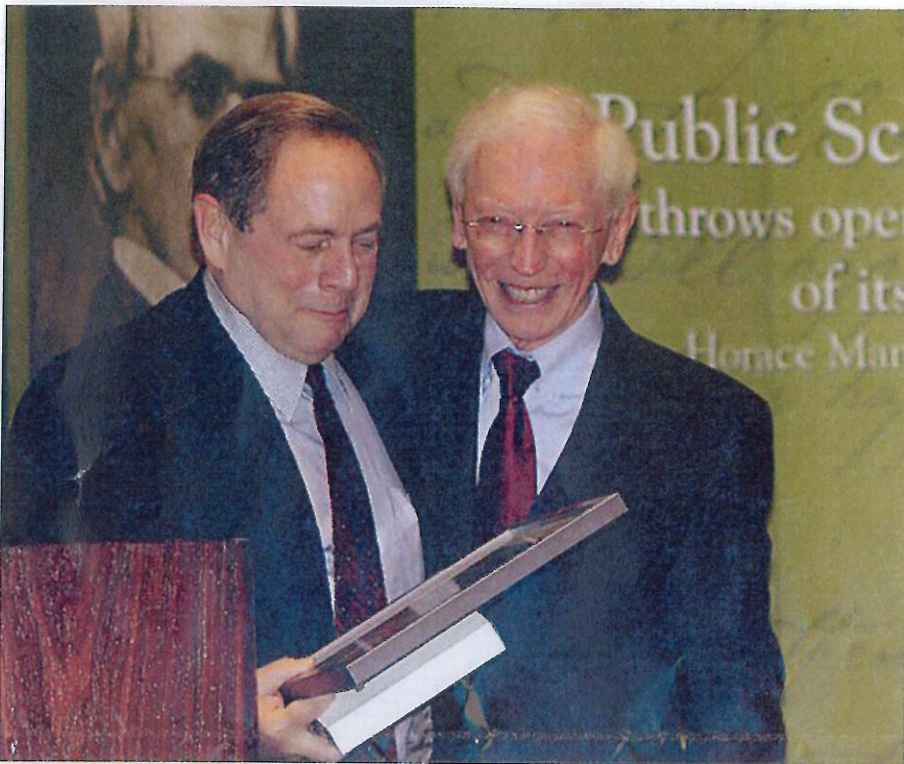


Outstanding Public Education Award



Ken Bird was presented the “Outstanding Public Educator Award” from Gary Marx.

Dr. Ken Bird, former superintendent of the Westside Community School District (Omaha) and Past President of the Horace Mann League was presented the “Outstanding Public Educator

Award” for his leadership in creating the Avenue Scholars Foundations. Avenue Scholars was organized in January 2008 with a pledge to support students of talent and financial need through higher education and into the workforce. Chaired by Omaha philanthropist Walter Scott, the Board of Directors hired Dr. Bird as Chief Executive Officer.

The Avenue Scholars program is designed to provide intrusive support for students of talent and need through high school, college, and into the workforce. Avenue Scholars began serving 174 students in three area high schools and Metro Community College. Avenue Scholars is currently serving approximately 475 students in seven Omaha area high schools, Metro Community College, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Avenue scholars continue to receive highly individualized and comprehensive support throughout their post-secondary education. For those attending a community college or vocational school, the program provides unique transitional support into the workforce or into a four-year public or private college program. During the post-secondary years, an Avenue College Talent Advisor coordinates campus services, housing, and transportation; organizes academic and financial services; and plans special events and programs to enhance campus life for Avenue students.

More about the Avenue Scholars Foundation and program can be located at:

<http://www.avescholars.org/>