



For Immediate Release

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Mercy High School *Spirit of Midtown* Award Winner - Honored for Being a Good Neighbor, Community Partner

OMAHA, Neb., August 5, 2008 – Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey and Destination Midtown Executive Director Jamie Grayson-Berglund will present Mercy High School, located at 1501 S. 48th St., with the *Spirit of Midtown* award on Sunday, Aug. 10 at the blessing of the school's new \$550,000 reception plaza.

The Eileen Krebs Ryan Plaza, named for the donor who funded the entire project, will include a new school entrance with a two-story glass enclosure, a paved drive, fresh landscaping and eight new light poles. Sister Johanna Burnell, president of Mercy High School, said the special lighting will “enhance the appearance of the block.”

“We tried to be sure the lighting replicated lighting used in other parts of Destination Midtown,” she said. “We stressed with the architects that we wanted to be in-line with anything Destination Midtown was doing.”

Grayson-Berglund applauded Mercy for its dedication to the community.

“Mercy High School is absolutely doing its part to make Midtown Omaha a destination of choice, a great place to live, work and play,” said Grayson-Berglund. “Destination Midtown is a community effort, and we are grateful to have such a good community partner in Mercy and its faculty.”

“We made a decision about 25 years ago that this is our home; this is where we're going to stay,” said Sr. Burnell.

The school, she added, is astounded and flattered to receive the *Spirit of Midtown* award. “Receiving this award is an affirmation that Destination Midtown regards us as a good neighbor. That's a high priority for us because we want to be identified as a neighborhood school,” she said.

Kiewit is expected to finish plaza construction by Aug. 1. The blessing on Aug. 10 will include an ice cream social, which is open to the public. The event is scheduled from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

To nominate a Midtown business, institution or individual for a *Spirit of Midtown* Award, contact Destination Midtown at info@destinationmidtown.org. The award recognizes establishments that embody the spirit of Midtown through investment and active involvement in the community.

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Destination Midtown is a partnership between Midtown businesses and residents, the City of Omaha and the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce. The mission is to create a premier urban environment where people want to live, work, shop and play. The vision is to establish a distinct urban environment that promotes economic development activities and advances neighborhood goals and forges unique partnerships. Destination Midtown is bordered on the north by Cuming Street, the south by Center Street, the east by 24th Street and the west by Saddle Creek Road.