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Winning Futures Presents Awards to Greg Kelser, Detroit Pistons' Broadcaster, and Frank Venegas, Jr., CEO of Ideal Group

Warren, MI – The 22nd Annual Winning Futures Award Celebration brought together nearly 300 students, educators, mentors, and program sponsors earlier this month. The annual event honors outstanding mentors and business leaders, and presents scholarship awards to students from across southeast Michigan. Since its founding in 1994, Winning Futures has impacted over 40,000 students and awarded \$1.7 million in scholarships.

In honor of Winning Futures' amazing founder, Sam Cupp, Winning Futures annually awards an individual with the Sam Cupp Impact Award. It is awarded to a business leader who saw a need in their community, and did something about it. As a successful business owner, Cupp created Winning Futures to impact local youth through mentoring, goal setting, strategic planning, and scholarship programs. He not only funded the organization initially, he also worked directly with the students, mentors, and teachers. Sam saw an issue and did something about it.

This year Frank Venegas Jr. is the outstanding recipient of the 2016 Sam Cupp Impact Award. He is the Chairman and CEO of Ideal Group, which is headquartered in Southwest Detroit and employs over 500 people. Ideal Group has been awarded the Global Supplier of the Year Awards by General Motors, and is one of four suppliers worldwide to earn GM's inaugural Overdrive Award for Sustainability.

"Frank Venegas is a perfect recipient of the 2016 Sam Cupp Impact Award. As a successful businessman, he has actively made an impact in the community with both his time and treasurer. He is passionate about empowering others through programs like First Robotics and through employment at Ideal group. It is an honor to present Frank with this prestigious award," stated Kristina Marshall, Winning Futures' President & CEO.

Venegas is actively involved with the following: Member of the Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council Board of Directors, Chairman for the Detroit Hispanic Development Council, Community Health and Social Services and LA SED, and the DTE Energy Supplier Advisory Council.

Venegas is very active in his community. He sits on the boards for the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Science Center, and Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. Similar to Sam Cupp, Venegas facilitates access for educational opportunities, internships, and mentoring programs, specifically for Detroit Cristo Rey High School. Venegas also sponsored

the opening of the First Robotics Build Center in Southwest Detroit at the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation.

The Partner of the Year Award was presented to Greg Kelser, Detroit Pistons' broadcaster. Each summer since 2011, Winning Futures partners with Kelser to facilitate a free basketball camp for 100 Detroit youth at Cass Technical High School. The camp serves young athletes off the court and in the classroom with a curriculum that focuses on goal setting, positive attitude, and team work. To date, 730 youth have been impacted by this partnership.

Kelser, the fourth player selected in the 1979 NBA draft by the Detroit Pistons, is a Michigan State University Distinguished Alumni Award winner, a member of the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame, and leadership keynote speaker.



*(Left to Right) Greg Kelser-Detroit Pistons' Broadcaster
Kristina Marshall-Winning Futures' President and CEO
Frank Venegas Jr.-Chairman and CEO of Ideal Group
Alma Guajardo-Crossley-Director of Global Diversity for GM and Winning Futures' Board Member
Scott Rice-President and COO of Powerlink and Board Chair Winning Futures*

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ABOUT WINNING FUTURES

Winning Futures is an award winning nonprofit organization that makes a difference in the lives of young people by offering school-based mentoring programs and workshops for middle school and high school students in southeast Michigan. Winning Futures' programs focus on the life skills of character value identification, goal setting, career preparation and strategic planning. Founded in 1994 by entrepreneur Sam Cupp, Winning Futures now partners with organizations throughout the country to implement our life skills workbooks and activities. For more information, visit www.winningfutures.org or call 586-294-8449.