

**To: Superintendent Jared Cleveland, Lavaca School District, Child Nutrition Director
Glynieta Price, Lavaca School District Special Projects Coordinator, Anne Sneed,**

Congratulations are in order for **Lavaca Elementary School!** This elementary school is the first school in Arkansas to receive Bronze Award for the Healthier US Challenge as announced today by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)!!! **Lavaca Elementary School** joins the **958 schools out of the 93,000 schools nationwide**, that have received either the Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards. Please see below highlighted in yellow a small portion of the USDA media announcement.

Quote: “The U.S. Department of Agriculture commends these schools for the exemplary steps, leadership and team work employed to make changes to their schools’ nutrition environment; improve the quality of the foods served; provide students with more nutritious, healthy choices; and, enhance their physical activity program. To acknowledge their achievement, the schools will receive a HUSSC award plaque, a banner to display, and a small monetary incentive award.”

USDA’s HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) is a voluntary national certification program that recognizes excellence in nutrition and physical activity. The Challenge is designed to bring schools closer to compliance with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM’s) recommendations for school meals and foods in schools.

The Challenge is also a key component of the recently announced First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move! Initiative to raise a healthier generation of kids (www.letsmove.gov). The initiative includes the goal of doubling the number of HUSSC schools by June 2011 and adding 1,000 more schools for each of the following two years. Our Arkansas First Lady Ginger Beebe has joined this initiative to help promote this Challenge among Arkansas schools.

The Arkansas Department of Education, Child Nutrition Unit is very proud of this school nutrition program for this national recognition for Arkansas. Ms. Sheila Brown, MS, RD from ADE CNU has worked with Mrs. Price and her child nutrition staff to modify menus and complete these national Bronze Award requirements. We will work with the Southwest Region Office of USDA and Lavaca to set a celebration time for the award presentation! The Lavaca Elementary School will receive \$500, a plaque and a large banner from USDA.

Again, Mrs. Price, Mr. Cleveland and Mrs. Sneed thank you so much for the hard work and dedication in meeting the requirements for this USDA National Achievement!

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