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PRESS RELEASE

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ADVANCED EXTERNAL REVIEW TEAM RECOMMENDS HICKMAN MILLS C-1 SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION

(South Kansas City) – The Hickman Mills C-1 School District (HMC1) has been recommended to the AdvancED Accreditation Commission for the distinction of accreditation by an external review team made up of nine educators from across the United States. AdvancEd is the global leader in providing continuous improvement and accreditation services to over 32,000 institutions, serving 20 million students worldwide. This marker of quality means a comprehensive review of all district processes in the areas of teaching/learning, leadership capacity and the utilization of resources showed that HMC-1 is performing within acceptable ranges as compared to expected criteria as well as other institutions in the AdvancED network. The external review team reviewed district artifacts, conducted classroom observations and interviewed approximately 215 district stakeholders to support their recommendation of accreditation to the AdvancED Accreditation Commission.

The Board approved the pursuit of accreditation through AdvancED in April of 2016. Since then, the District has been diligently preparing evidence of HMC-1's progress for the AdvancEd External Review Team. The review team arrived in the district April 17th to conduct their review. This review concluded Thursday, April 20th with a presentation to the HMC-1 Board of Directors.

Accreditation through AdvancEd involves three ongoing components: meeting high quality standards; implementing a continuous process of improvement; engaging quality assurance through internal and external review from the AdvancEd team. This rigorous process included input from students, parents, and community stakeholders. Committees were formed, surveys were completed, and interviews/observations were conducted. The newly earned AdvancED accreditation is for five years, with an intermittent review/update scheduled after two years.

Superintendent Carpenter expressed his pleasure with this new distinction by stating, "I am extremely pleased to announce to our school district community that we have been recommended for international accreditation through AdvancED. We know there is work yet to be done in the area of student achievement, but it's refreshing to have the district's processes, systems and overall programming validated. This ensures that we are on track in terms of providing a holistic education of the district's children validated. In addition to highlighting five powerful practices in the district, this external review team also noted three improvement priorities that should guide this district's work in the short-term future. I am humbled by positive sentiments of the external review team and this makes



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me extremely proud of the work of the faculty, staff and students of our district. We have come a long way!"

Currently there are only six school districts in Missouri accredited through AdvancEd and HMC-1 is the only urban school district in the state to receive this distinction.

Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Carl Skinner who coordinated this district effort proudly stated, "Although the process was comprehensive and exhausting, it was worth it! Hopefully this honor will encourage our stakeholders and demonstrate our district-wide commitment to excellence, as well as our desire to continuously improve and be the best we can be for our students."

The mission of the Hickman Mills C-1 School District, a proudly diverse and historic community, is to provide a foundation for our students that maximizes academic success and fosters civic engagement.