



## News

For Immediate Release  
February 16, 2012

Contact: Aaron Pickus, Mayor's Office  
Tel: (206) 233-2650

Additional materials and photos: <http://www.seattle.gov/media>

### **Harlem Globetrotter Blenda Rodriguez visits Seattle elementary school with best January attendance**

*As the winner of the Be Here Get There January attendance challenge, Thurgood Marshall Elementary received a visit from Mayor Mike McGinn and a special presentation from the world-renowned Harlem Globetrotters*

SEATTLE – Harlem Globetrotter Blenda Rodriguez performed at Thurgood Marshall Elementary on February 16 in partnership with the city of Seattle and Seattle Public Schools' citywide attendance campaign, *Be Here Get There*, to congratulate Thurgood Marshall Elementary for having the best elementary school attendance in Seattle for the month of January.

"We are very excited to be able to welcome the Harlem Globetrotters to our school," said Thurgood Marshall Elementary Principal Julie Breindenbach. "We're extremely proud of our faculty, students and parents for making attendance a priority."

"Improving attendance rates must be addressed in ways that engage students," said Mayor Mike McGinn. "We're very pleased to have the opportunity to partner with the Harlem Globetrotters and congratulate Thurgood Marshall Elementary on their successful attendance."

Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn joined in congratulating Thurgood Marshall Elementary on winning the *Be Here Get There* January attendance challenge. As part of the visit, Globetrotter Blenda presented the team's "C.H.E.E.R.™ For Character" program, an interactive program designed with assistance from the U.S. Department of Education. The presentation focused on character traits such as cooperation, healthy mind & body, effort, enthusiasm and responsibility, using the acronym "C.H.E.E.R."™.

The City of Seattle is partnering with the Harlem Globetrotters as part of the *Be Here Get There* attendance campaign to engage students across the city in the importance of going to school, as consistent attendance in early grades is necessary for students to gain the social and academic skills that are critical in school success. The campaign, a collaboration between the City of Seattle, Seattle Public Schools, the Alliance for Education, and Get Schooled, focuses

on strategies for schools, students, families, and the community to improve attendance, and is being rolled out citywide to engage all communities across Seattle.

For more information on the Be Here Get There campaign visit <http://www.getschooled.com/Seattle>

*All Mayor's Office press conferences, town halls and general public meetings are archived by [Seattle Channel](#). Many town halls and press conferences are also [broadcast live to the web](#). Sign up for *The Reader*, our office newsletter, at our [website](#). And learn more about your neighbors and the mayor's activities on our [blog](#).*



[@MayorMcGinn](#)



[Mayor Mike McGinn](#)

###