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## **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Midlands Mentoring Partnership Summit and Youth Development Luncheon Featuring Best-Selling Author Paul Tough**

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(Omaha, Neb.) – Midlands Mentoring Partnership (MMP), in collaboration with the Metro Omaha Educational Consortium, the Buffett Early Childhood Institute and the Iowa Mentoring Partnership, will host the **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Midlands Mentoring Partnership Summit and Youth Development Luncheon on Wednesday, March 19, at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha**. MMP’s one-day summit and luncheon will feature keynote speaker Paul Tough, New York Times best-selling author of *How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity & the Hidden Power of Character*.

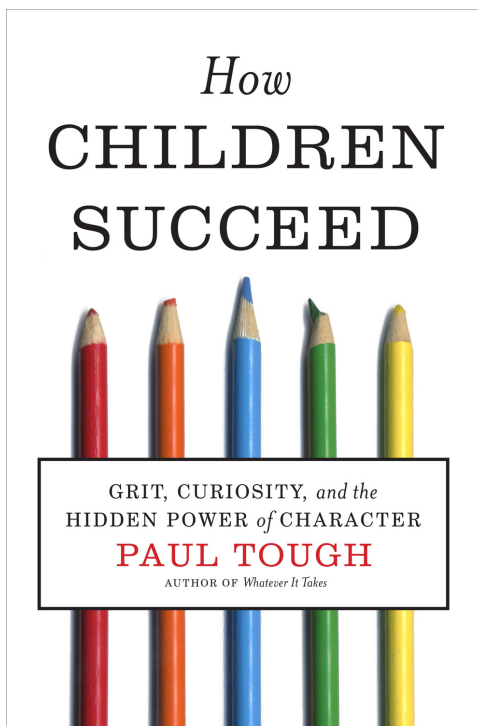
Paul Tough is a highly-acclaimed motivational speaker, best-selling author and contributing writer to the *New York Times Magazine*. He has written extensively about education, parenting, poverty and politics, including cover stories on character, education, and the achievement gap. His most recent book, *How Children Succeed*, introduces us to a new generation of researchers and educators who, for the first time, are using the tools of science to peel back the mysteries of character. In the book, Tough traces the connections between childhood stress and life success, while uncovering the surprising ways in which adults do—and do not—prepare children for adulthood. His research presents new insights into how to help children growing up in poverty.

The summit will also feature nationally renowned mentoring experts, and breakout sessions aimed specifically at mentors, youth development professionals, and anyone interested in learning more about mentoring. During the luncheon, awards will be presented to the Mentor of the Year, Dakotah Taylor, and Mentoring Advocate of the Year, Mutual of Omaha and Mutual of Omaha Foundation.

Midlands Mentoring Partnership is a collective impact organization that provides area mentoring programs with strategies for improved outcomes for at-risk youth. In Douglas and Sarpy Counties

alone, MMP has 12 mentoring agencies that are full members and has engaged an additional 40 programs in the area by providing training & technical assistance. MMP creates a forum for mentoring professionals across the community to collaborate, share and leverage resources, and work together in the areas of research and service. The resulting synergy of ideas and resources makes MMP a powerful mechanism for bringing mentoring to scale in the Omaha metropolitan area.

The cost for the luncheon is \$50.00. The cost to attend the luncheon and the summit breakout sessions is \$70.00. Proceeds from the summit and luncheon will be used to help grow MMP by continuing to increase its capacity to support mentoring programs in the Omaha metropolitan area. Sponsorships for the conference are available. For more information, or to register for these activities, please call (402) 715-4175 or visit [www.mmpomaha.org](http://www.mmpomaha.org). Any additional questions can be directed to Whitney Mastin, MMP Director of Operations, at: [wmastin@mmpomaha.org](mailto:wmastin@mmpomaha.org).



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Photo of book available at: <http://mmpomaha.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/How-Children-Succeed.jpg>

Photo of Paul Tough available at: <http://mmpomaha.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/PaulTough.jpg>

Summit breakout session schedule available at:

<http://mmpomaha.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/2014-Breakout-Schedule-with-details.pdf>

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The Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC) is a model collaboration between UNO College of Education, the twelve metropolitan area school districts, and two educational service units. The consortium is a catalyst for identifying high priority issues common to member organizations and addressing these issues through joint task forces and projects. MOEC provides a forum for professionals from across the educational spectrum and community to share information and work together in the areas of teaching, research, and service. The resulting synergy of ideas and resources makes MOEC a powerful tool for improving education.

The Buffett Early Childhood Institute is a four campus, university-wide, research, training, outreach, and policy institute of the University of Nebraska. Its purpose is to help transform early childhood development and education for at-risk and vulnerable children, birth to age 8, in Nebraska and across the nation. The Institute's endowment was established by a generous gift from philanthropist Susie Buffett and by funds from the university and other sources.

The Iowa Mentoring Partnership (IMP) supports their mission to "Improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering" by supporting quality mentoring programs in Iowa. Originating as a program of the Office of Drug Control Policy in 2001, IMP now operates as a state government program and division of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.