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Educators To Be Honored

Dr. Richard Green, superintendent of the Minneapolis Public Schools, will give the main address at a banquet sponsored by the Black Caucus of the Omaha Education Association (OEA). The event, which will stress the theme, "Together We Excel," will be held Friday, February 17, at 7 p.m. in the Peony Park Ballroom.

Three leaders in education will be honored that evening by having scholarships established in their names. The Eugene and Pauline Skinner and Katherine Fletcher scholarships will be open to black students graduating from any Omaha public high school and going into education.

Tickets for the event, which is being held in conjunction with Black History Month, cost \$20 and can be obtained from members of the Black Caucus or by calling the Omaha Education Association, 346-0400.

Eugene Skinner retired in 1979, having served 39 years in the Omaha Public Schools as the first black teacher to be employed and later the first assistant superintendent of the Department of Human Community Relations, a department he opened in 1969.

Skinner distinguished himself as a civic leader and educator as his long career. Among his many honors was the Whitney Young Memorial Award in 1977 from the National Education Association for his role in promoting equal employment in education.

Linda Skinner retired in 1981, having compiled a teaching career of 40 years which began when she was assigned to teach physical education at Howard Kennedy School during World War II.

Mrs. Skinner spent the last 13½ years as kindergarten teacher at Kellom School, where she earned distinction for innovative teaching methods with minority children. Among her professional honors was the Outstanding Teacher of America Award in 1972.

Katherine Fletcher was principal of Laura Dodge Elementary School when she retired in 1983. Her appointment to the suburban school had been part of a district-wide reassignment of minority staff prior to the desegregation of the district in 1976.

Mrs. Fletcher served the Omaha schools 35 years in teaching and administrative work. She is credited with starting the first breakfast program in Nebraska. She received the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award in 1979 from the Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders and the Human Relations Award of the Omaha Education Association in 1983.

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