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UCSN TEACHER, STUDENT RECOGNIZED FOR ACHIEVEMENT

CHICAGO —UNO Charter School Network (UCSN) school director, [Melissa Sweazy](#), was named Principal of the Year by the Illinois Network of Charter Schools (INCS) at the 2016 Illinois Charter Schools Conference's Excellence Award luncheon on Nov. 10. Sweazy was presented with the 2016 Illinois Charter Excellence Award as well as \$5000 to apply toward school programming and essentials at her Humboldt Park school, UCSN Esmeralda Santiago. The award recognizes Sweazy's commitment to the charter school model of developing high-quality schools that use innovative, best practices. Under Sweazy's leadership, UCSN Esmeralda Santiago is ranked by CPS School Quality Ranking Policy (SQRP) as a top tier school, receiving a level +1 ranking.

In addition to Sweazy, UCSN Brighton Park eighth-grader, Carlos Montalvo, was presented with the Outstanding Eighth-Grader award and a \$500 scholarship for high school. Montalvo and one other eighth-grade student were recognized for outstanding academic achievement, leadership qualities, embodiment of school mission, and exceptional community and school involvement.

"As a charter system, UCSN emphasizes continual improvement and pushes school leaders, educators and staff to perform above and beyond the status quo. We are very proud of these award recipients. They are a strong representation of our students, teachers, leadership model and success," stated UCSN Chief of Schools, Matthew Moeller.

About UCSN: *The UNO Charter School Network (UCSN) is one of the largest charter school networks in Chicago, serving nearly 8,000 students and their families through thirteen elementary schools and three high schools. It is focused on improving and transforming communities by challenging students, parents, and faculty to reach the highest of academic standards. At UCSN, academic success is not hope; it is an expectation.*

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