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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Media Advisory: U-46 Students Prepare to Showcase Skills at TalentFest**

*Tenth annual event to be performed at The Hemmens*

**ELGIN** - School District U-46's high schoolers will showcase their artistic skills and compete against each other at the 10th annual TalentFest Tuesday, March 10, on The Hemmens Main Stage. Parents and community members are encouraged to attend this fun Districtwide event.

The contest features 10 acts, made up of two finalists chosen from each of the five District high schools – Bartlett, Elgin, Larkin, South Elgin, and Streamwood. After these 10 finalists perform, the audience will vote for their favorites. The top five acts advance to the second act, where they will perform again. A panel of judges will select the first, second and third-place winners.

Winners receive a cash prize as well as a commemorative plaque. In addition, the school whose acts receive the most total audience votes will be awarded the traveling TalentFest Trophy. Larkin High School has taken home the TalentFest trophy for the past two years.

"We're excited to celebrate the 10th anniversary of TalentFest this year and it's been a pleasure to see how much the event has grown in the past decade," said TalentFest Coordinator Jeff Grosser. "TalentFest continually provides a fantastic opportunity for our high schoolers to showcase their



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creativity in front of family, friends, peers, and community members and we can't wait to see the students perform on March 10."

The acts this year include a vocalist/guitarist and piano vocal duo from Bartlett High, a magician and vocal duo from Elgin High, a vocal trio and single vocalist from Larkin High, a rock band and tap dancing duo from South Elgin High, and a rapper and vocalist/guitarist from Streamwood High.

This year's TalentFest will also feature a performance from Mariachi Joya Dorada de U-46, directed by U-46's Fine Arts Coordinator Jaimie Giraldo. The mariachi ensemble has grown each year since it formed in 2009 and includes about 125 students from Elgin and Streamwood high schools, Abbott, Canton, Ellis, Kimball, Larsen, and Tefft middle schools.

Tickets for the 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 10 event are \$5 and can be purchased through the [Hemmens online box office](#), by phone at 847-931-5900 or at the door. TalentFest is made possible with the support of the U-46 Educational Foundation, the Elgin Cultural Arts Commission, and Judson University.

During TalentFest, the U-46 Educational Foundation will host a Wall of Giving in the lobby of the Hemmens. Donors who take a numbered envelope from the wall can pledge to make a donation to the Foundation in an amount equal to the number on the envelope. With this fundraiser, the Foundation has the potential to raise more than \$5,000, which will be used next year to help send all U-46 fourth graders to a performance of the Elgin Symphony Orchestra.

"The U-46 community is thrilled to have this opportunity to celebrate our high school performers," said U-46 Educational Foundation Coordinator Dawn Curran. "With TalentFest's focus on the arts, this fundraiser has become a natural fit for the Foundation."



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This year's celebrity judges are Jeffrey Pierce, Publisher of Bravo Magazine, Jaimie Giraldo, U-46 Fine Arts Coordinator, Lisa Medendorp, U-46 Educational Foundation board member, and two students from Judson University, Carter Grimes and Bryan Tripp.

Additionally, this is the first year TalentFest will feature emcees from each of the District's high schools. Nine students will host the event and share responsibilities introducing acts and interacting with the audience.

**WHAT:** The 10th Annual School District U-46 TalentFest.

**WHEN:** 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

**WHERE:** The Hemmens Cultural Center, 45 Symphony Way, Elgin.

**COST:** Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased [online](#), by phone at 847-931-5900 or at the door. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to the show.

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*School District U-46 serves families in 11 communities: Bartlett, Elgin, Hanover Park, South Elgin, Streamwood and Wayne, as well as portions of Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and West Chicago. In total, the District encompasses 90 square miles within the Fox River Valley, approximately 45 minutes west of downtown Chicago, and includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. More than 38,000 pre-K through twelfth graders attend the 57 District schools and programs. To learn more, Visit the U-46 [website](#), or like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).*