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**HARRISON’S LOUIS N. WOOL CHOSEN  
NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR  
BY STATEWIDE SUPERINTENDENTS GROUP**

**Albany, NY** - The New York State Council of School Superintendents announced today that Superintendent, Louis N. Wool, of the Harrison Central School District has been named the 2010 New York State School Superintendent of the Year.

Dr. William Johnson, THE COUNCIL’s Distinguished Service Chair and Superintendent of Rockville Centre Schools, said, “It is clear that his priorities are to open doors of opportunity for every child in his school district. It is wonderful to have someone represent us who is making a merger of excellence and equity a priority in the system he leads.”

An experienced and talented educator, he has served as superintendent in Harrison, a district of 3,482 students in Westchester County, since 2002. He has proven to be a strong educational leader and change agent for his district and community, guiding Harrison to regional and statewide acclaim in academics, the arts, professional development, systems of accountability, long range planning, and fiscal management.

Previously, he was assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction for the Harrison Central School District from 1999 to 2002. He has also served as director of secondary education and as special assistant to the superintendent for the Mt. Vernon City School District.

Thomas Sobol, professor emeritus at Teachers College, Columbia University and former Commissioner of Education, said, “One of his most stunning achievements has been, and is now, to bring together the diverse population within his own school district and beyond as well...As a teacher, a supervisor, a superintendent, a college teacher, and Commissioner of Education, I have worked with hundreds of superintendents and superintendents-to-be. Louis Wool is among the best.”

In 2003, Dr. Sobol nominated him and the faculty of the Educational Leadership Program at Teachers College chose him as the first recipient of the Carroll F. Johnson Scholarship awarded to an outstanding educational administration student who demonstrates exceptional talent and leadership potential.

His doctoral thesis focuses on a ten year systemic reform implementing the theory of adaptive leadership developed by Dr. Ronald Heifetz of Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Under his leadership, the Harrison Central School District has transformed into a high achieving learning community, insuring the most rigorous and challenging curriculum is available to every student; this effort has resulted in increased performance across all demographics and among students of all academic abilities. Some of the district's significant accomplishments include:

- ★ Access to AP classes has significantly increased the number of students achieving a score of 3, 4 and 5. The number of students achieving AP Scholar recognition quadrupled. 60% of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade is enrolled in AP Global History.
- ★ The total number of AP exams taken in 2009 was over 950; in 2002, only 180 AP exams were written.
- ★ Harrison High School now ranks among top performing schools with a Regents diploma rate of 95%, up from 69% in 2002.
- ★ 97% of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are enrolled in 9<sup>th</sup> grade algebra, with 93% achieving proficiency.
- ★ Harrison High School's enrollment in AP Calculus is nearly four times greater than it was seven years ago.
- ★ The number of special education students scoring proficient and mastery on the grade seven state math exam increased from 21% in 2006 to 80% in 2009.
- ★ The district's teacher evaluation program was recognized as 'exemplar' by the New York State School Boards Association.
- ★ He developed a comprehensive two year new teacher orientation program and a comprehensive professional development program that offered 25 in-service courses. During his tenure teachers have been recognized at the state and national level for excellence in differentiated instruction.
- ★ Under his leadership, the district has realized unprecedented success in long range planning and financial management. Tax increases have been among the lowest in Westchester County, while the district has continued to build academic programs.
- ★ Harrison received a AAA rating from Standard and Poor's, twice in as many years, and is one of only three districts in New York State to receive this designation. The Government Finance Officers Association presented the district with its highest recognition: Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting.
- ★ The elementary foreign language program, implemented in 2004, was awarded the Sally G. Hahn Memorial Award for Outstanding FLES Program by the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers.
- ★ He was nominated by his music faculty and was the recipient of the Westchester County School Music Association 2009 administrator of the year.

As part of his comprehensive agenda for improvement, he understood the importance of expanding academics and the district's fine and performing arts program. He introduced new curricula, including science research, pre-calculus beginning in grade 9, elementary foreign language, strings and orchestra, dance, and theater.

He is a member of the American Association of School Superintendents. He has been a member of the New York State Council of School Superintendents since 2002 and has contributed to the Pathways and Curriculum committees. He currently serves as President of the Chief School Administrators of Southern Westchester, on the National Steering Committee of Public Schools for Tomorrow, the Executive Boards of the State Wide Schools Cooperative Health Plan and the Sound Shore Public School Consortium.

The Superintendent of the Year Award was established in 1988 by the American Association of School Administrators and is co-sponsored by ARAMARK Education and the ING Foundation.

He now becomes New York State's candidate for national superintendent of the year, to be awarded at AASA's National Conference on Education in Phoenix in February.

***The New York State Council of School Superintendents is the professional organization of school district leaders, providing member services, advocating sound educational policy, and asserting the leadership role of superintendents.***

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