



NEWS RELEASE

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NYS School Superintendents to Meet for Fall Leadership Summit: “Leadership for Extraordinary Successes”

Rochester – On October 4 and 5, 2009, the New York State Council of School Superintendents (THE COUNCIL), the statewide professional and advocacy organization serving over 700 New York State school superintendents and other school leaders, will convene at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center for its annual Fall Leadership Summit. Superintendents from throughout the state will gather to explore the theme “Leadership for Extraordinary Successes.”

The Fall Leadership Summit will provide an opportunity to hear from newly appointed State Education Commissioner Dr. David M. Steiner. Just days after he assumes office, this will be Dr. Steiner’s first appearance before a statewide audience of New York’s school leaders. In addition, the Chancellor of the State Board of Regents, Dr. Merryl H. Tisch, will address the audience during the Sunday luncheon.

Commissioner Steiner will be speaking to conference at 3 p.m. on Monday, October 5.

Dr. Thomas Rogers, THE COUNCIL’s Executive Director, explained, “Education in New York State is about to undergo a profound transformation with the appointment of new leadership in Albany, and a new vision backed by significant resources coming from the Obama administration.” Rogers added, “Superintendents are excited to take New York’s educational achievement to the next level. They are gathering at this summit to help shape that future and share strategies for taking advantage of the opportunities presented by renewed focus on improving public schools.”

THE COUNCIL’s incoming president, Dr. L. Oliver Robinson, Superintendent of Shenendehowa Central School District will also be inaugurated at the Annual Banquet on Sunday evening, October 4 at the Rochester Hyatt Regency Hotel. The Annual Banquet is sponsored by Turner Construction.

Asked about his priorities as President, Dr. Robinson said, “I endeavor to help THE COUNCIL be a source of support for bold and courageous leadership exemplified by colleagues across the state. I endeavor to help THE COUNCIL and superintendents to be strong voices on educational reform and to have a pronounced and prominent impact on the future of education.”

Dr. Robinson will be the first person of African ancestry to hold the office of president in the organization’s history. Dr. Robinson said, “I am pleased to serve as a symbol of what public education is about – paving the way for a brighter future for our children. I hail from humble beginnings and stand as testimony of the transforming power of education.” He added, “It is the foundation of my leadership that every child should be provided with the opportunity for a quality education.”

THE COUNCIL will also recognize veteran school leader Stephen J. Uebbing with its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. Now an associate professor in educational leadership at the University of Rochester’s Warner School of Education, Dr. Uebbing served in public education for 34 years, culminating in 2006 after leading the Canandaigua City School District as superintendent for 18 years.

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Dr. Uebbing has received many honors for service to his community and to public education and was named the New York State School Superintendent of the Year in 1999.

Dr. Uebbing will be presented with the Distinguished Service Award at THE COUNCIL's October 4th Annual Banquet. Established in 1967, the award is given annually to a retired school superintendent who has exhibited an exemplary commitment to public education. The 2009 Distinguished Service Award is sponsored by Cisco Systems.

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to take part in "skill building" workshops and roundtable discussions aimed at giving them ideas for addressing practical issues in leading their districts, including engaging today's learners, managing construction projects, improving special education, communicating effectively in union negotiations, maximizing efficiency through shared services, and strategies for raising student achievement.

Participants will also hear from nationally renowned speakers including Dr. Edward T. Joyner, who will present "The Superintendent as Change Agent," a discussion of the contextual factors that influence the work for school superintendents. Sir Kenneth Robinson, Ph.D., will discuss "Leading in a Creative Culture of Innovation," explaining why too many educators are locked into a model of schooling shaped by the Industrial Revolution and a narrow idea of academic ability.

Andres Rafael Arroyo, Assistant High School Principal at Grand Island Central School District, will be presented with the Raymond R. Delaney Scholarship on Monday, October 5. THE COUNCIL awards the Raymond R. Delaney Memorial Scholarship every year to an individual enrolled in an educational administration program who is aspiring to a career as a school administrator. Mr. Arroyo is currently enrolled as a doctoral student at the State University at Buffalo. The scholarship, sponsored by Utica National Insurance Group, is awarded in the amount of \$2,500 along with a certificate of recognition.

The Fall Leadership Summit is presented with Premier Diamond Partner Mosaic Associates and Architects.

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The New York State Council of School Superintendents is the professional association of more than 700 school district leaders, helping members succeed through professional development, by advocating sound public policy on behalf of school children and taxpayers and defending the leadership role of the superintendency.