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NYS Council of School Superintendents hosts Winter Institute: “The Heart of Educational Leadership: Kids First in Every Decision”

Albany –Meeting at the New York State Council of School Superintendents’ Winter Institute on January 10-11, 2010, approximately 300 school leaders from across New York state will discuss the changing dynamics in state government, the current and future fiscal challenges facing the state and how these issues impact superintendents and the delivery of public education to New York’s schoolchildren.

THE COUNCIL, a professional and advocacy organization with 700-plus members that has served the school superintendents of New York state for over a hundred and twenty-five years, will meet at The Desmond Hotel & Conference Center in Albany to explore the theme “*The Heart of Educational Leadership: Kids First in Every Decision.*”

“The conference motto, ‘*Kids First in Every Decision,*’ is both a request and a promise,” explained Council Executive Director Thomas Rogers. “It’s a request to state and federal policymakers that they keep the interests of schoolchildren foremost in their deliberations in the months ahead. But even more important, it is a promise by our members of how they will approach the decisions they confront in leading their school systems – to ask first and always, what would be best for the students they serve.

In addition to opportunities to learn about the implications of the state fiscal outlook for schools, the Winter Institute will provide a legal session that addresses new changes in the coming year that will affect school districts and a discussion on the newly published Snapshot VII survey on the current state and nature of the superintendency.

Keynote speakers will include:

- **Dr. Ronald Heifetz, Senior Lecturer, Harvard University and Founder, Center of Public Leadership**, will present “*Leadership in a (Permanent) Crisis.*” He is recognized for his seminal work on building the capacity of organizations to successfully adapt to change. His latest book, *The Practice of Adaptive Leadership: Tools and Tactics for Changing Your Organization and the World*, was coauthored with Marty Linsky and Alexander Grashow. Dr. Heifetz is a graduate of Columbia University, Harvard Medical School, and the Kennedy School of Government.
- **Vince Poscente, Business Strategist, Olympian and Best-Selling Author**, will share his ideas with “*Age of Speed,*” a presentation on why harnessing the power of speed is the ultimate solution for those seeking less stress, less busyness and more balance. With insights from his best-selling book, *The Age of Speed*, and his experiences as an Olympic athlete and Fortune 500 consultant, he has developed an invigorating perspective on getting results fast.

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- Also, participants can attend the closing session with **Commissioner of Education David M. Steiner** to hear and discuss the major issues confronting public education in the state. Commissioner Steiner will speak at the **Monday, 3 p.m. session**.
- Council Executive Director Thomas Rogers will provide final thoughts and comments to the Winter Institute.

THE COUNCIL takes the opportunity to present various awards and scholarships during this conference:

- On Sunday (January 10), THE COUNCIL will present its “Friend of THE COUNCIL Award” to **Johanna Duncan-Poitier**, Chancellor’s Deputy for the Education Pipeline of the State University of New York and former Senior Deputy Commissioner at SED and **Sheila Gardella**, Director of Member Relations for the Teachers Retirement System. This award is given every year in recognition of a non-member’s contribution to THE COUNCIL and the field of education. The 2010 Friend of THE COUNCIL awards are sponsored by Signature Partner New York Schools Insurance Reciprocal.
- Also on Sunday, THE COUNCIL will recognize two superintendents with their Appreciation Award, in recognition of active members’ efforts on behalf of the organization and its initiatives. This year, the award will be presented to **Mrs. Randy Ehrenberg, Superintendent of North Colonie (Albany County)** and **Dr. Edward Fale, Superintendent of Valley Stream #24 (Nassau County)**. The 2010 Appreciation Award is sponsored by Premier Diamond Partner C & S Companies.
- **The 2010 New York State Superintendent of the Year, Louis Wool, Superintendent of Harrison**, will be recognized on Monday (January 11). Mr. Wool is now in the running for the National Superintendent of the Year, presented by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) at their annual conference in February.

THE COUNCIL awards two scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 every year at the Winter Institute to minority and/or female aspiring leaders. On Monday, January 11, the Pathways to Leadership for Minorities and Women scholarships will be awarded to Margie Daniels, an assistant middle school principal in the Peekskill City Schools and to Zoila Tazi, elementary principal at Park Early Childhood Center in the Ossining Union Free School District.

The 2010 Winter Institute is sponsored by Signature Partner Campus Construction Management Group, Inc. Campus Construction, formerly K-12 CM division of Christa Construction, LLC, is an employee-owned company providing construction management and enhanced clerk-of-the-works services and is one of the largest providers of CM services to over 85 districts throughout New York State. Other Winter Institute event sponsors include Cisco Systems; Core BTS, Inc.; CSArch Architecture/Construction Management; C+S Companies; ECG Engineering, LLC; Harris Beach, PLLC; HSBC Bank USA, N.A.; K12 Insight; New York Schools Insurance Reciprocal; and VALIC.

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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