



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 22, 2011

CONTACT: Robert Lowry, Jr., Deputy Director • 518/449 - 1063
E-mail: boblowry@nyscoss.org
or
Denise Nash, Director of Public Information
Jericho Union Free School District
516/203-3600 x3202
E-mail: dnash@jerichoschools.org

Jericho's Hank Grishman Selected as New York State School Superintendent of the Year by statewide Superintendents Council

Albany, NY – The New York State Council of School Superintendents announced today that Superintendent Hank Grishman of the Jericho Union Free School District has been named the 2012 New York State School Superintendent of the Year.

Dr. Marilyn C. Terranova, President of THE COUNCIL and Superintendent of Eastchester Schools, said, “Hank’s selection recognizes his career of successful school district leadership serving diverse communities across our state, as well as his support for colleagues through wide-ranging contributions to THE COUNCIL’s work.”

Dr. Terranova added, “Hank recognizes that student excellence can only be achieved through collaboration with the community, parents, students, teachers, staff, administrators and the Board of Education.”

Mr. Grishman became the Jericho superintendent in 1995. With a student enrollment of 3,200, Jericho was most recently ranked number 40 on the *U.S. News & World Report* list for Best High Schools for Math and Science, one of the few open enrollment schools listed in the Top 40.

Jericho also ranked number 76 in the latest "High School Challenge" listing published by *The Washington Post*, again ranking as one of the highest public schools nationally.

Council Executive Director, Dr. Robert Reidy, Jr., said, “Hank is an outstanding person, educator and child advocate. His statewide leadership has positively influenced the children of New York State.”

Mr. Grishman has had a long and diversified career as a school district leader. He has served as superintendent of five New York districts over a span of 33 years. He began his work as a superintendent in 1978, leading the Sharon Springs Central School District in rural Schoharie County.

Mr. Grishman began his career in education as an elementary and middle school mathematics teacher. His first administrative position was as an elementary school principal in Yonkers, where he grew up.

Since 1995, Mr. Grishman has served as the superintendent of the Jericho School District of Nassau County.

In nominating Mr. Grishman, Jericho school board president Joseph Lorintz wrote “During his 17-year tenure as our educational leader, Hank has always far exceeded expectations in all of his responsibilities.”

Some accomplishments include:

- Successfully managing the district’s surging population – an almost 50 percent increase in student enrollment resulted in opening a new elementary school, and required voter approval of financing for a major expansion project at the middle/high school complex.
- Leading the successful integration of an increasingly diverse student population and their families into the school community: in the last 10 years, Jericho’s population has grown dramatically more diverse – from less than 10 percent other than white, to almost 40 percent.
- Under his leadership, special education services were expanded and reorganized in Jericho to better meet the needs of all students including implementing a co-teaching model, which raises the level of effective special educational instruction.
- New electives were added during his tenure including approximately ten new AP courses and a wide variety of electives in all curriculum areas. A representative list includes a four-year engineering sequence, Mandarin Chinese, virtual enterprise, tournament debate, sports medicine, Asian American literature, discrete math, multivariable calculus, facing history, forensics, and philosophy.
- School district relationships with Adelphi, Hofstra, St. Johns, RIT, Syracuse University, SUNY Old Westbury, C.W. Post, NYIT were facilitated by him which enables the students to garner college credit for high school courses.
- In an effort to keep both the board and community apprised of new courses and curricular enhancements, district administrators, teachers and students conduct academic informational presentations at each board meeting, an effort that he started and was featured as best practices in the *New York State School Boards* publication.
- A joint council of PTAs was created in the district under his leadership, with representation from the six district PTAs. The council meets on a regular basis with central administration to discuss topics of interest, voice concerns and receive updates on future plans.
- Under his guidance, additional conference days, extended faculty meetings and significant investment in professional development activities have been added each year to keep faculty on top of emerging research and successful practices.
- All district schools are recognized as national blue ribbon schools.

Mr. Grishman has received numerous prestigious recognitions that highlight his educational career and community commitment. Among his awards are:

- Nassau BOCES Partners in Education Award,
- Educator of the Year from the Korean Parents Association of Long Island,
- Distinguished Service from the NYS Athletic Administrators Association,

- Distinguished Service from the Council of Administrators,
- Jericho Athletic Association Community Service Award,
- Friend of Education from NYSUT

Mr. Grishman has also served as President and member the Executive Committee of the New York State Council of School Superintendents; President and officer of the Executive Committee for the Leadership for Educational Achievement Foundation, Inc.; Member of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Inc., Central Committee; NYSPHSAA Section VIII, Chair Superintendent's Board; Governing Board Member of the American Association of School Administrators and President and current member of the Executive Committee of the Nassau County Council of School Superintendents.

As a member of the Executive Committee and an officer of the New York State Council of School Superintendents (THE COUNCIL), Mr. Grishman implemented and participated in a wide array of initiatives including but not limited to the introduction of legal services for all members of THE COUNCIL, the expansion of professional development opportunities, and the implementation of a successful strategic partnership program.

As the founding president of The Leadership for Educational Achievement Foundation, Inc. (LEAF, Inc.) the professional development arm of THE COUNCIL, Mr. Grishman helped develop a Future Superintendents Academy, a year-long program dedicated to preparing outstanding state educational leaders for the superintendency. He also oversaw collaborative relationships with the LEAF Board to garner both public and private funding for a broad range of professional development initiatives.

Mr. Grishman also played a leadership role in THE COUNCIL's support of state efforts to strengthen school financial accountability.

Mr. Grishman service as a superintendent included leadership of these districts: Sharon Springs (Sharon Springs (1978–1982), Port Byron (1982–1987), Mohonasen (1987–1992), Plainview Old Bethpage (1992–1995), Jericho (1995 to present).

Hank Grishman and his wife Jill, a retired social studies and English teacher from the Wantagh School District, currently reside in Old Bethpage, New York. They have two married sons; Matthew, his wife Amie and their two sons who live in Rocklin, California, and Daniel and his wife Gillian and their three daughters who reside in Jericho, New York.

As the New York State Superintendent of the Year, he now becomes New York's candidate for national superintendent of the year, to be awarded at AASA's National Conference on Education in Phoenix in February 2012.

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

The New York State Council of School Superintendents is a professional and advocacy organization with over a century of service to school superintendents and assistant superintendents in New York State. The Council provides more than 750 members with numerous professional development opportunities, publications and personal services while advocating for public education and the superintendency.

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