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Windsor Superintendent Dr. Jason A. Andrews Named 2019 New York State School Superintendent of the Year

Albany, NY – The New York State Council of School Superintendents (THE COUNCIL) has named Windsor Central School District Superintendent Dr. Jason A. Andrews the 2019 New York State Superintendent of the Year. The Windsor CSD will host a ceremony at the Windsor Central High School auditorium on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.

“I am humbled and honored to be named New York’s Superintendent of the Year. This award is a reflection of the hard work of the students, staff, and community partners of the Windsor Central School District,” said Dr. Andrews. “We are committed to Windsor being a world-class community school that is the district of choice. Everyone in Windsor is working to make our district a beacon of 21st-century learning where students can become ready for a successful future and pursue any field they choose.”

“Jason is the consummate professional under whose leadership our student and staff performance has excelled to a point that I would never have thought possible when I joined the board 15 years ago. He began his superintendency as the youngest superintendent in the state of New York and he has shown incredible skills at motivating people at all levels of our organization and beyond. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award,” said Windsor Board of Education President and Broome-Tioga BOCES Board of Trustees member, Pete Nowacki.

Dr. Andrews has served as Superintendent of the Windsor CSD since January 2006, when he became New York’s youngest school superintendent, a status he then retained for many years. Dr. Andrews currently serves on the Executive Committee for the New York State Council of School Superintendents, the State Education Commissioner’s Advisory Council, and the National Center for Educational Research and Technology National Board and is a charter member of the Institute for Innovation.

He also consults with districts across the country regarding Professional Learning Communities, strategic planning, and preventing bullying and harassment.

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During his tenure Dr. Andrews has overseen over \$60 million in improvements to facilities in the District, allowing the Windsor CSD to serve students with an outstanding learning environment. The District is currently in the midst of a \$15.7 million capital project which is providing safety upgrades, a state-of-the-art multi-purpose athletic field and a “STEAM” wing in Windsor Central High School (STEAM – Science, Technology, Arts and Mathematics).

The District has earned several statewide and national honors. Windsor has once again been named One of the Best Communities for Music Education. This year along, Windsor had the highest number of newly-named New York State Master Teachers among districts in the Southern Tier, boasts the 2018 Middle School Principal of the Year and an Empire State Excellence in Teaching Award winner.

The District is one of only 11 in the nation named a Model PLC (Professional Learning Community) District. PLCs recognize those who best exemplify the process in which educators work collaboratively in recurring cycles of inquiry and research to achieve better results for the students they serve.

The recently-launched Future Ready Knights program is an ambitious partnership between the district and local businesses and organizations to allow students to pursue one of seven career pathways: Business/Finance, Health Care, Computer Science, Agriculture, Education, Trades and Engineering. K-12 Students will tour local businesses, receive hands-on training and develop their own professional network. A Career Counselor in the high school will help students take their first steps toward a professional career.

During Dr. Andrews' tenure, the number of co-curricular activities in the Middle School and High school, along with the number of Advanced Placement and college-credit courses in the High School has dramatically increased. Advanced courses available at Windsor Central High School has increased from five to 29. Each school is also a designated mental health clinic with services available to students and their families.

All students in grades 8-10 can take the PSAT free of charge during the school day, and all juniors can take the SAT during the school day free of charge as well. Students also have access to customized tutorials through Kahn Academy to prepare for the PSAT and SAT exams. SAT participation among Windsor CSD juniors has jumped from 67 in 2016 to 106 in 2018.

In addition, Windsor has been a lead district in the Breakfast in the Classroom program, providing free breakfast to every student. Windsor's summer program gives Universal Prekindergarten-12 students access to high-quality STEAM, fine arts and athletics programming, and employment opportunities for older students to serve as mentors. These efforts are part of the district's dedication to serve the whole child while preparing them for the world of possibilities available after graduation.

Council Executive Director Dr. Charles Dedrick said, “Jason Andrews is respected statewide as an educational leader and always exemplifies the best of our profession. As a member of our Executive Committee, he is a thoughtful and informed leader providing keen insight on key issues affecting our state. Dr. Andrews understands how important superintendent leadership is to a school district's success to provide students with a comprehensive educational experience. I saw this first hand when I went to Jason's district and saw the outpouring of support from the community, students and staff for him as superintendent. He leads by example and not just by words.”

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Council President and Plainview-Old Bethpage Superintendent Dr. Lorna Lewis said “Dr. Andrews represents the best qualities of what superintendents in New York possess to make an impact on tomorrow's leaders. He has been actively engaged in the work, having led courageous conversations on changing school culture, offering his service to THE COUNCIL's leadership and advocating for the issues that produce the highest leverage for schools. He will continue to serve us well as he takes on the well-deserved recognition as the New York State Superintendent of the Year.”

Dr. Andrews is New York's nominee for consideration as the National Superintendent of the Year to be awarded at the National Conference on Education of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) held February 24-16, 2019 in Los Angeles, CA. Dr. Andrews will also be recognized at THE COUNCIL's 2019 Winter Institute and Lobby Day, March 3-5, 2019 in Albany, NY as New York State's Superintendent of the Year.

The Superintendent of the Year Award was established in 1988 by AASA and is co-sponsored by the First Student, and the Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company (VALIC) and AASA.

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About the New York State Council of School Superintendents

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 850 members with numerous professional development opportunities, publications and personal services while advocating for public education and the superintendency.