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Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES Superintendent James Langlois Named New York State School Superintendent of the Year

Albany, NY – The New York State Council of School Superintendents announced today that District Superintendent Dr. James Langlois of the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES has been named the 2015 New York State School Superintendent of the Year.

“To the extent that the award calls attention to the challenges faced by public education and its long history of successes in the face of those challenges, I am honored to receive this recognition,” said Dr. Langlois. “It is an honor that I am proud to share with every superintendent who leads public schools.”

As District Superintendent of Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES, Dr. Langlois leads a responsive, innovative and collaborative agency that serves some of the highest rated and most respected school districts in the nation. “We Can Do That,” the BOCES’ motto, exemplifies the agency’s commitment to helping school districts meet the rapidly changing challenges of education reform and tight budgets with flexible, cutting-edge, high-quality and cost-effective programs.

Dr. Langlois has been District Superintendent of Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES for the past 10 years, and served the previous eight years as superintendent in Goshen, N.Y. Before that, he was an Assistant Superintendent on Long Island and worked in a number of leadership positions in the public schools of Manhattan and the Bronx. He began his career in public education 50 years ago as a high school English teacher in Connecticut.

Council Executive Director Dr. Robert Reidy said, “Jim Langlois is admired by his colleagues in this state and beyond. They have called on him to serve in many leadership roles. He is also a respected independent voice and effective local leader among the superintendents and school boards of the Lower Hudson Valley.”

Dr. Langlois has served as President of the New York State Council of School Superintendents (THE COUNCIL). He has also served on THE COUNCIL'S Executive Committee, its House of Delegates, Commissioner's Advisory Council, on many of its committees, and is a co-author of its recent vision statement, *Public Education Matters*.

He served for seven years on the national governing board of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), THE COUNCIL'S national affiliate, and for several years on the national Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs) Executive Committee.

Dr. Langlois holds two Masters Degrees and a Doctorate in Educational Communication from Columbia University Teachers College. He has taught graduate educational leadership courses at Fordham University and SUNY New Paltz. He is the author of several nationwide evaluations of federally funded career and technical and special education initiatives and has presented at many national and regional conferences.

In nominating, Dr. Langlois, BOCES Board President Richard Kreps wrote, "He has creatively and with great persistence developed a positive, collaborative and responsive culture that has successfully steered our BOCES through major internal transitions and multiple external challenges. As a result of his leadership, our BOCES is often looked upon as a model of effective practices in an educational service agency."

Some of the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES accomplishments that have been achieved under his leadership include:

- Creating a Center for Educational Leadership that provides innovative graduate degree and certification programs for educators in partnership with several colleges and universities;
- Developing widely used, ground-breaking science, social studies, sustainability and blended online curricula;
- Transforming BOCES' career and technical education with new offerings in high-tech, medical and other 21st century career areas, and expanding offerings to middle schoolers and to multiple school-based sites;
- Opening up new areas of special education services while systematically raising academic standards and accountability;
- Supporting an influx of new immigrants to the region with a wide and flexible range of academic, career and technical and support services;
- Expanding BOCES' online application system to more than 300 school districts in New York State;
- Providing a wide and constantly changing range of cutting edge professional development, training and consulting to schools and districts in administration, academics and support services.

- Establishing an extensive system of networks of educators – from superintendents to teachers to support staff – who collaborate with BOCES in identifying the changing needs and wants of their school districts, and in developing effective responses to meet those needs and wants.

Under his leadership, Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES has received national and regional recognition as a model of excellence in such areas as developing independence in multiply handicapped students and incorporating entrepreneurship into career and technical education.

As the New York State Superintendent of the Year, Dr. Langlois now becomes New York's candidate for national superintendent of the year, to be awarded at AASA's National Conference on Education in San Diego, Calif., in February 2015.

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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