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East Irondequoit Superintendent Susan Allen Named New York State School Superintendent of the Year

Albany, NY – Today, the New York State Council of School Superintendents announced that East Irondequoit Central School District Superintendent Susan Allen has been named the 2016 New York State School Superintendent of the Year.

Council Executive Director Dr. Robert Reidy said, “Susan Allen is admired by her colleagues and is a respected local leader in the Rochester area especially due to her work in providing rich and rigorous learning opportunities for a diverse population of students. Susan has been a valued member of THE COUNCIL since 2000 and we are privileged to advance her to compete for the National Superintendent of the Year recognition.”

Since becoming superintendent in 2005, Mrs. Allen has overseen the implementation of a number of initiatives to provide students of the district with opportunities which had never existed. Some examples of these are:

- Currently, four of the district’s six schools are authorized as International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools. The two primary level buildings should be authorized within a year. This will make EI one of the few districts in the country to have IB at all levels. The district also pays for all IB and Advance Placement exam fees.
- Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) is in place at both the middle school and high school. The middle school is the **only** AVID National Demonstration School in New York State. 100% of AVID students at the high school have been accepted to college over the last two years.
- Project Lead the Way gives high school students a chance to explore the field of engineering, and at the same time, earn credits at the Rochester Institute of Technology.
- A partnership with Monroe Community College has provided students taking dual-credit courses the chance to earn college credits at no cost.
- Approval of a \$72 million capital project provided students with state-of-the-art facilities. Major renovations were made to the high school, athletic facilities, and classroom instructional space.

In nominating Mrs. Allen, School Board President Kimberly Lasher wrote “Mrs. Allen took our vision seriously and immediately put together a strong leadership team to aid in affecting positive change for growth and development. Our classes are becoming more student-centered because of technology and her forward thinking as a superintendent.”

These are just a few examples of unique approaches to learning that Mrs. Allen has brought to the most diverse suburban district in Monroe County.

In the past three years, the district has embarked on a 1-1 digital conversion initiative and, as of this fall, every student in grades k-12 has been assigned an iPad. Using a unique and well-conceived approach to all facets of the implementation, EICSD is now considered a role model in the region for achieving digital conversion in a thoughtful manner.

Prior to coming to East Irondequoit, Mrs. Allen has served in a number of administrative roles in suburban school districts including five years as assistant superintendent for instruction in Hilton from 2000-2005 and in the same position at Palmyra-Macedon from 1995-2000. She served as a middle school principal in Clarence and in Palmyra-Macedon and as an assistant principal at the Albion Middle School. She began her career in education as a reading teacher with the Bloomfield Central School District.

Mrs. Allen is certified as a school district administrator, as a school business administrator, as a reading teacher, a music teacher and as an elementary, kindergarten and preschool teacher. She earned a certificate of advanced study in school business and certification in school administration from SUNY Brockport, a master’s degree in reading from Nazareth College, and a bachelor’s degree in music with a minor in education from SUNY Brockport where she graduated Magna Cum Laude. She has taught graduate-level educational leadership courses at SUNY Brockport, and has been a presenter at numerous regional, state and national conferences.

Under her leadership EICSD has received a number of awards and recognitions including designation as a School of Opportunity by the National Education Policy Council, and as one of the top communities in the United States for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants, and recognition by the Washington Post as a Challenge List High School.

As the New York State Superintendent of the Year, Mrs. Allen now becomes New York’s candidate for national superintendent of the year, to be awarded at AASA’s National Conference on Education in Phoenix, AZ, in February 2016.

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, the Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company and AASA.

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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.