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CONTACT: Robert Lowry, Jr., Deputy Director ICSD Communications
NYS Council of School Superintendents Ithaca City School District
(518) 449-1063 / (518) 694-4879 (607) 882-9530
E-mail: boblowry@nyscoss.org E-mail: icsdcommunications@icsd.k12.ny.us

Ithaca Superintendent Luvelle C. Brown Named 2017 New York State School Superintendent of the Year

Albany, NY – The New York State Council of School Superintendents (THE COUNCIL) announced that Superintendent Dr. Luvelle C. Brown of the Ithaca City School District (ICSD) has been named the 2017 New York State School Superintendent of the Year.

Council Executive Director Dr. Charles Dedrick said, “Luvette is truly deserving of this recognition for his leadership at the state and national levels, his effective and creative use of technology in education, and for his passion and dedication to the students within the Ithaca City School District. In fact, Luvelle was the first person who introduced me to the importance of social media in education and was one of the reasons why I joined Twitter when I was a District Superintendent.”

“I am overjoyed. This special recognition is a tribute to the exceptional efforts and accomplishments of the entire Ithaca City School District community,” said Brown.

The ICSD District Board of Education President Rob Ainslie said, “This is a well-deserved honor for Dr. Brown as he has delivered on his promises. The amazing results and transformation in our school district are evident for all to see.”

Prior to becoming superintendent, Dr. Brown had experiences as a teacher, coach, principal, and school Chief Information Officer (CIO). Additionally, he has been an active community leader having served in leadership roles for various non-profit organizations such as Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. and co-founded the Central Virginia chapter of 100 Black Men of America.

Dr. Brown was appointed as the Ithaca City School District superintendent in 2011. He worked collaboratively with the community to establish a vision of “6000+ Thinkers” and a mission to “Engage, Educate, Empower.”

Council President Patricia Sullivan-Kriss, West Hempstead said, “Luvette has been an important voice in

education for the State of New York and the students he serves. His innovation in technology and program implementation is well-known and regarded. We congratulate him on this important recognition and are delighted that he will represent the superintendents of our state for the National Superintendent of the Year.

During his tenure, the ICSD graduation rate has skyrocketed from 78 percent to above 90 percent while all student groups are reaching unprecedented levels of performance including:

- an 8 percent increase in enrollment and diversity in higher-level courses,
- a 58 percent increase in enrollment in co-curricular programs,
- a 7 percent increase in number of students reading on-grade level K-5,
- a 64 percent reduction in discipline referrals,
- and a reduction of the district's Special Education classification rate from significantly above state average (14.8 percent) to significantly below (11.6 percent).

Dr. Brown has received various awards and recognition for his leadership. He was honored by the National School Boards Association as a "20-to-Watch," and received the Center for Digital Education Top 30 Award. In 2014, he received the eSchool News Tech-Savvy Superintendent Award.

He was also selected by the U.S. Department of Education as one of the nation's top 100 innovative superintendents. Along with that distinction, Dr. Brown was invited to be a featured speaker at President Barack Obama's first National Superintendent Summit at the White House. Additionally, Dr. Brown serves on the New York State Council of School Superintendents' (THE COUNCIL'S) Executive Committee, The School Superintendents Association (AASA) Digital Consortium, The Center for Digital Education Advisory Council, and CoSN's Empowered Superintendent Advisory Panel.

Dr. Luvelle Brown is a highly regarded speaker addressing a range of topics for local, regional, and national audiences. He has published numerous articles and is the co-author of *ThinkTweets: 100 Transformative Tweets for Educators*.

As the New York State Superintendent of the Year, Dr. Brown now becomes New York's candidate for national superintendent of the year, to be awarded at AASA's National Conference on Education in New Orleans, LA in March 2 -4, 2017.

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

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The New York State Council of School Superintendents (THE COUNCIL) 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 800 members with numerous professional development opportunities, publications and personal services while advocating for public education and the superintendency.