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Shenendehowa's Dr. L. Oliver Robinson Selected as NYS School Superintendent of the Year by statewide Superintendents Council

Albany, NY – The New York State Council of School Superintendents (THE COUNCIL) announced today that Superintendent Dr. L. Oliver Robinson of the Shenendehowa Central School District has been named the 2013 New York State School Superintendent of the Year.

THE COUNCIL'S President James T. Langlois, District Superintendent of Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES said,

“Dr. Robinson is a strong voice for students across New York State. He is an involved leader on the local, state and national level always keeping children’s interests at the heart of his decision-making. Oliver is an outspoken and strong leader and we were pleased to select him as our candidate to represent New York State at the national level.”

As the New York State Superintendent of the Year, Dr. Robinson now becomes New York’s candidate for national superintendent of the year, to be awarded at the American Association of School Administrators’ National Conference on Education in Los Angeles in February 2013.

Accepting the award, Dr. Robinson said,

“I am honored to be recognized for this prestigious award. Public education is about hope and hopefulness. It is about inspiring a sense of inquisitiveness in our children. It is about helping to bring them to their preferred dreams, regardless if it is college, career, or otherwise. I am proud to be recognized for my efforts as a leader in these endeavors.”

Robinson was nominated for Superintendent of the Year by Shenendehowa School Board President Mary Blaauboer. She said,

“Dr. Robinson is a model of educational leadership whose expertise, talent and perspective is an example to other educators, parents, community members and

students. From both personal and professional experience, Dr. Robinson has a clear vision of the impact of education – on individual students, communities and our entire nation. His guiding principle is to “do what’s right for kids” and he carries that message to all aspects of his work. His personal “commitment to excellence” fuels the same commitment at the Shenendehowa Central School District – from his office to every classroom and beyond.”

Council Executive Director, Dr. Robert Reidy, Jr., said

“Dr. Robinson is an outstanding leader, educator and champion for children. As a past president of THE COUNCIL and a Governing Board Member of the American Association of School Administrators, Oliver understands that strong leadership is the key to making sure each child in New York State has access to the highest quality educational experience. We are proud that he is representing THE COUNCIL at the national level for this prestigious award.”

Dr. Robinson has served as the superintendent of Shenendehowa (“Shen”) since 2005. With a student enrollment of more than 9,800, Shenendehowa is consistently ranked as one of the top school districts in the state:

- The Regents graduation rate is consistently more than 90 percent and the district exceeds the state and national average performance on ACT and SAT exams.
- The high school was named among the top 2,000 best high schools out of 22,000 in 49 states by the *U.S. News & World Report*. Shen ranked 152 in the state of New York.
- Shenendehowa was recognized as one of 367 school districts in the nation by the College Board on the 2nd Annual AP[®] Honor Roll for increasing access to Advanced Placement courses while increasing the percentage of students earning scores of three or higher on the AP Exams.
- Shenendehowa was recently designated as a Blue Star School for the personal finance course that earned the W!SE 2011-2012 Financial Literacy Certification Test.

While at Shen, Robinson has worked with his team to:

- Standardize what and how things are taught, align it with state and federal standards and use data to effectively monitor students’ progress and success.
- Develop an effective continuum of services for students with special needs focused on mainstreaming, co-teaching classroom and ensuring that service follows needs.
- Expand program offerings to include more honors-level, Advanced Placement, and college-level courses.
- Implement the high school alternative education program enabling at-risk students to graduate with a Regents diploma.
- Promote the importance of cultural diversity through a district-wide committee charged with developing activities such as the annual Shensational! Global Expo that celebrates the richness of the wealth of diversity within the school and community. The event won a Golden Achievement Award from the National Schools Public Relations Association.

- Broaden the eco-friendly focus through an increase in recycling programs; installation of systems to shut down all computers and control building temperatures; and installation of solar panels on our high school.
- Broaden communication to reach more people through: Saturday coffee and conversations; enhanced website; Facebook/Twitter; and a Student Information System (SIS) that provides a parent portal to access student information, e-mail and electronic grade book.
- Facilitate a variety of partnerships with businesses, civic organizations, hospitals, and religious organizations to collaborate on the provision of services and supports for students.
- Develop fiscally responsible budgets, yielding an average budget increase of less than 1% over the past four years, while preserving or enhancing programs in the face of spiraling reductions in state aid. Receiving an increased bond rating to an AA due to the strong financial management and fiscal health of the district.
- Construct and renovate facilities, all on schedule and under budget, including a new elementary school, aquatics center, classroom additions to the middle schools, athletic fields, transportation facility, campus wide walking and fitness trails, and most recently a referendum to provide WiFi access in every school building.

Robinson has had an extensive career as an educational leader. He served as:

- School Business Official at the Berne-Knox-Westerlo School District from 1995-1997
- Assistant Superintendent for Business at Mohonasen Central School District, 1998- 2001
- Superintendent of Schools at Mohonasen Central School District, 2001-2005

He has received numerous recognitions including:

- Southern Saratoga YMCA, President's Award
- New York State PTA, Honorary Life Membership Award
- New York State Council of School Superintendents, President, 2009-2010
- University at Albany Alumni Award, "Reaching Higher, Achieving More"
- Capital District YMCA, "Black & Latino Achiever Award"

Robinson has served as:

- President and member the Executive Committee of the New York State Council of School Superintendents
- Member of the Governing Board Member of the American Association of School Administrators
- Member of the New York State Teachers Retirement System Board of Directors
- Member of the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE)

Dr. L. Oliver Robinson and his wife Tammy Ellis-Robinson reside in Clifton Park, New York with their three children, Oliver, Erik and Genevieve.

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

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