



Council of the Great City Schools
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Minneapolis Educator Wins National Award

Honored for Research and Assessment Leadership

WASHINGTON, July 31 – David Heistad, Ph.D., executive director of the Research, Evaluation and Assessment Department of the Minneapolis Public Schools, has received the nation's top honor in research and assessment in urban education.

He received the 2009 Council of the Great City Schools/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Research and Assessment Leadership Award at the Council's annual Curriculum and Research Directors Meeting in Chicago, July 16-17. The \$1,000 award was bestowed upon him for demonstrating educational excellence in the field of research and assessment that supports teaching and learning.

"Dr. Heistad's commitment to the use of data and research to improve the quality of education for our urban students is unsurpassed," says Council Executive Director Michael Casserly.

Dr. Heistad has directed the Minneapolis school system's 13-member research, evaluation and assessment operation for the past 12 years, providing student data to district leadership, school principals and classroom teachers. He has made data-based decision-making a major component of the district.

Additionally, he has led a department that has successfully created and implemented a process for coordinating research in the school district with local university faculty, resulting in nationally recognized studies.

He is recognized as an expert in high-stakes testing and assessment, value-added growth models for accountability as well as early-literacy measurement.

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