

Cleveland school board Chair Denise Link named Urban Educator of the Year by the Council of the Great City Schools

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on November 01, 2013 at 10:16 AM, updated November 01, 2013 at 10:27 AM



Cleveland Municipal School District

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - Cleveland school board Chair Denise Link was named Urban Educator of the Year by the Council of the Great City Schools at the organization's annual conference Thursday night.

Link, who has served on the board since 2007 and as chair since 2009, received a \$10,000 college scholarship to pass on to a student here.

“Denise Link’s leadership abilities have contributed to the progress of urban school districts nationally, and have been instrumental in the groundbreaking reform of the Cleveland public schools,” Council Executive Director Michael Casserly said in a written statement.

The council is a coalition of 66 of the largest urban school districts in the country.

Other district officials were aware that Link would receive the award and prepared a **video congratulating her**, which was shown at the conference.

In the video, Mayor Frank Jackson thanks Link for helping develop the Cleveland Plan for Transforming Schools, the district's plan to overhaul the district, which was passed by the state legislature in 2012. He also credited her with campaigning to pass last year's 15-mill school levy and for helping carry out the plan.

Board Vice Chair Louise Dempsey and district Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon also thank her in the video, which then has children shouting congratulations to her.

Link has served on the council's board of directors for the past four years and was a nominee for Urban Educator of the Year honors in 2011, according to the council, which alternates between picking a superintendent and a board member for the award each year.