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Council of the Great City Schools

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Cleveland School Board Chair Named Urban Educator of the Year

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., Oct. 31 – Denise Link, chair of the Cleveland Board of Education, tonight won 2013 Urban Educator of the Year honors at the Council of the Great City Schools' 57th Annual Fall Conference here.

Five big-city school board members competed for the nation's highest honor for urban education leadership, recognizing in alternating years an outstanding school board member and superintendent from 66 of the largest urban school systems in the country.

Urban school leaders recognized Link during the Council's 24th Annual "Urban Educator of the Year" award banquet, where she received the newly established Green-Garner Award in memory of urban school leaders Richard R. Green and Edward Garner.

Sponsored by the Washington, D.C.-based Council and the ARAMARK Education and Voyager Learning/Sopris Learning companies, the top prize for the past 23 years was known as the Richard R. Green Award, named for the first African American chancellor of the New York City school system. Businessman Edward Garner, who represented school board members on the Council's Executive Committee in the early 1990s, played a key role in establishing the Urban Educator of the Year award.

Link has chaired the Cleveland school board since 2009, and has led the policy body's efforts to transform the Cleveland Metropolitan School District with academic and fiscal reform plans that have received strong mayoral support and considerable funding from local foundations.

"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," says Council Executive Director Michael Casserly, noting that she has been on the urban-school coalition's Board of Directors for the past four years. She was also a nominee for Urban Educator of the Year honors in 2011.

As the recipient of this year's Green-Garner Award, Link receives a \$10,000 college scholarship to present to a student.

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