

**News...News...**



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Council of the Great City Schools  
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**Statement by Michael Casserly, Executive Director  
Council of the Great City Schools  
On the  
Passing of Beverly Hall**

On behalf of the Council of the Great City Schools and its member urban school districts, I offer my profound condolences on the passing today of former Atlanta Superintendent Beverly Hall.

Her husband, Luis, her family and many friends, and the extraordinary number of colleagues whose lives she touched have my deepest sympathies.

Beverly Hall was an extraordinary person. An educator of the first rank. A mentor to many. A role model to thousands. And a friend to legions of others across the nation. She was deeply loved by those who knew her and respected for her intellect, her integrity, her passion for children, and her commitment to public education.

I first met Beverly when she was in New York decades ago, and consider myself lucky to have been a comrade in arms over these many years.

To say that she will leave a lasting legacy on behalf of the nation's urban schoolchildren is to state the obvious. Millions of children across the country benefitted from the work she did and the lessons she taught.

Here in Atlanta, Beverly Hall led the public schools on one of the most substantial and important improvement efforts any city in the country has ever seen. To this day, the gains she garnered on the tamper-proof National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in reading and math are unmatched anywhere else in the nation.

I was proud that she was a long-standing member of the Executive Committee of the Council of the Great City Schools and that she received our highest honor, the Richard R. Green Award, the year our organization celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary—2006.

She was selected by her colleagues across the country for her commitment to excellence and equity for every child, a beacon from which she never wavered.

Few people will ever match her courage or energy. If you ever watched her around children, you knew she was an educator's educator.

Today, Atlanta lost one of its giants. Urban public education has lost one of its great stalwarts. All of us lost one of the best friends anyone could ever have. And America's children lost one of their truest champions.

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