



Michael Casserly Legacy Award for Educational Courage and Justice

ELIGIBILITY

Individuals who are in senior positions and able to affect the well-being of urban public education and improve its overall quality, direction, and reputation will be eligible for the award. This could include urban school superintendents, urban school board members, members of Congress or other federal, state, or city elected officials, cabinet officials, researchers, advocates, nonprofit organizational heads, scholars, legal experts, writers, foundation heads, teachers, and others.

CRITERIA

- An initiative or track record of action resulting in the improvement of academic performance and student outcomes in urban schools over an extended period;
- Activity that demonstrates courage, audacity, or bravery on behalf of urban schools and urban schoolchildren;
- Activity that results in substantial additional funding or support for urban public schools and the children they serve;
- Sustained activity that improves the public's confidence in urban schools and urban school children, the public's understanding of the challenges facing urban public schools, or the public's support of urban schools and urban schoolchildren;
- Consistent and lasting demonstration of and commitment to justice, equity, and opportunity for all urban school children; and
- Reflect the highest standards and reputation of the Council of the Great City Schools.

The application is available ONLINE ONLY. To complete an application click [here](#). You may also access the application at: <https://tinyurl.com/yeynj93u>

AWARD

The award shall be given annually by the Council of the Great City Schools at its March Legislative/Policy Conference or such other time that the Executive Committee of the organization shall determine. If available, the U.S. Secretary of Education will be invited to present the award or attend the award ceremony.

SELECTION

Nominations for the award may be made by any member of the Board of Directors of the Council of the Great City Schools. The selection of the awardee will be made annually by the Chair of the Board, the Executive Director and Michael Casserly.

SCHOLARSHIP

The awardee shall give a \$10,000 scholarship funded by Curriculum Associates to a Great City School graduate who aspires to leadership in urban education.



MICHAEL CASSERLY

Called a 'crusader' for city schoolchildren by USA TODAY, Michael Casserly took the reins of the Council in January 1992 after serving as the group's director of legislation and research for 15 years. When he stepped aside in March 2021, he was the longest serving chief among the major national education membership organizations.

As head of the Council, Casserly unified urban schools nationwide around a vision of reform and improvement; launched an aggressive research program on trends in urban education; convened the first Education Summit of Big City Mayors and Urban School Superintendents; led the nation's largest urban school districts to volunteer for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP); led the first national study of common practices among the nation's fastest improving urban school districts, and launched national task forces on achievement gaps, leadership and governance, finance, professional development, and bilingual education.

Casserly is currently serving in the role of Strategic Adviser at the Council through 2024.