



Council of the Great City Schools
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Council of the Great City Schools Announces New Leadership

School Board Chair in Tampa Takes Reins

WASHINGTON, June 27— Candy Olson, chair of Florida’s Hillsborough County School Board in Tampa, takes the reins of the Council of the Great City Schools' Board of Directors for a one-year term, effective July 1.

She succeeds Albuquerque Public Schools Superintendent Winston Brooks as chair of the policymaking body of the national coalition representing 67 of the nation’s largest urban public school systems. The Council’s 134-member board is composed of the superintendent and a school board member from each of the districts.

Olson steps up from the board’s chair-elect post, which will now be assumed by Indianapolis Public Schools Superintendent Eugene White. Succeeding him as secretary-treasurer will be Eileen Cooper Reed, a board member of the Cincinnati Public Schools, rounding out the Council’s leadership team for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year.

A longtime crusader for quality education for all students, Olson last year won the Council’s Richard R. Green Award, considered the highest honor for urban school leadership. The award is named for the first African-American chancellor New York City school system, who had also led the Minneapolis Public Schools in the 1980s.

“Candy Olson’s leadership goes beyond Florida, as she has made significant contributions to improving education for urban schoolchildren nationwide,” stresses Council Executive Director Michael Casserly. “She had headed the Council’s Achievement Gaps Task Force and By-Laws committee, and now serves as our board chair to lead our urban-school reforms in the coming year, especially the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.”

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