



Council of the Great City Schools
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. ♦ Suite 702 ♦ Washington, D.C. ♦ 20004
<http://www.cgcs.org>

FOR RELEASE
July 21, 2009

CONTACT: Henry Duvall
(202) 393-2427

Chicago and Buffalo Educators Win National Award

Honored for Curriculum Leadership

WASHINGTON, July 21 – Chief Education Officer Barbara Eason-Watkins of the Chicago Public Schools and Chief Academic Officer Folasade Oladele of the Buffalo Public Schools have received the nation’s top honor in curriculum development and implementation in urban education.

Both received the 2009 Council of the Great City Schools/Pearson Education Curriculum Leadership Award at the Council’s annual Curriculum and Research Directors Meeting in Chicago, July 16-17. They each received the \$1,000 award for exemplifying leadership, innovation and commitment in improving academic achievement of students in their respective school districts.

“They have developed systematic initiatives to address specific needs in their districts, and have built collaborative teams to provide the support necessary to produce substantial academic gains,” says Ricki Price-Baugh, director of academic achievement of the Council, a coalition of the nation’s largest urban public school districts.

“In other words, these exceptional leaders have translated plans into actions that have produced results,” she adds.

Dr. Eason-Watkins has been the chief education officer of the Chicago Public Schools for the past six years. She has led dramatic improvement of student performance in elementary education of the nation’s third largest school system, which has also seen all-time highs in student reading, math and science performance on state-mandated assessments.

Dr. Oladele has been chief academic officer of the Buffalo Public Schools for the past four years. Under her leadership, the school district has seen continuous growth in the New York State English Language Arts and Mathematics standardized assessments. She is known for her strategic planning, student-data monitoring and systematic training of staff and parents.

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