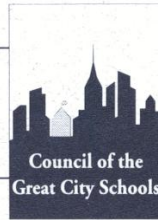


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Council of the Great City Schools

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. ♦ Suite 702 ♦ Washington, D.C. ♦ 20004

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CONTACT: Henry Duvall
(202) 393-2427

Philadelphia Superintendent Wins Nation's Top Prize in Urban Education Leadership

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21 School District of Philadelphia Superintendent Arlene Ackerman this evening received the 2010 Richard R. Green Award, the nation's highest honor for urban education leadership, at the Council of the Great City Schools 54th Annual Fall Conference in Tampa, Fla.

Nine superintendents of big-city school systems competed for the top award for an urban educator, which is given in alternating years to an outstanding school board member and superintendent from 65 of the largest urban school districts in the country.

Superintendent Ackerman received the Richard R. Green Award from the Council of the Great City Schools, a coalition of the nation's largest urban public school systems; ARAMARK Education, a support services company; and the Cambium Learning Group, an intervention and professional development provider.

The Green Award is named in honor of the first African-American chancellor of the New York City school system, who had also headed Minneapolis Public Schools.

"Arlene Ackerman is one of the best big-city school superintendents in the country and is most worthy of the nation's highest individual award in urban education," says Council Executive Director Michael Casserly. "She is smart, dedicated, innovative, effective, and completely committed to our urban schoolchildren. Our sincere congratulations."

Under Dr. Ackerman's leadership since 2008, the Philadelphia school system launched a five-year strategic plan, *Imagine 2014*, primarily focusing on providing significant resources to struggling schools. As a result of the plan, now in its second phase, half of the district's students for the first time scored at the proficient or advanced level on Pennsylvania's 2009-10 standardized test. She has also spearheaded the creation of a free Parent University to help parents get more involved with their children.

As the recipient of the Green Award, Dr. Ackerman received a \$10,000 college scholarship to present to a high school senior of her choice in the School District of Philadelphia or from her high school alma mater.

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