

News...News...



News...News...

Council of the Great City Schools

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

FOR RELEASE
October 29, 2009

CONTACT: Henry Duvall
(503) 226-1611

Atlanta School Board Member Wins Nation's Top Prize in Urban Education Leadership

PORTLAND, Ore., Oct. 29 – Emmett Johnson, a 12-year member of the Atlanta Board of Education, tonight received the 2009 Richard R. Green Award, the nation's highest honor for urban education leadership, at the Council of the Great City Schools' 53rd Annual Fall Conference here.

Ten school board members from big-city school districts nationwide competed for the top prize, which is given in alternating years to an outstanding school board member and superintendent from 66 of the largest urban school systems in the country.

Johnson received the Richard R. Green Award from the Council of the Great City Schools, a Washington, D.C.-based coalition representing America's urban schools; ARAMARK, a professional services company; and Voyager Expanded Learning, a company that provides reading and math programs.

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.

In his 12 years on Atlanta's school board, Johnson has served as chair, vice chair and liaison to the Georgia General Assembly. He has played a leading role in strengthening communication channels between the board and the superintendent to advance the school district's reform efforts. He also contributed to the establishment of the Atlanta Education Fund, a non-profit foundation to support the school system.

"Emmett Johnson's leadership on the school board has been beneficial in transforming Atlanta Public Schools into one of the highest performing urban school districts in the nation," said Council Executive Director Michael Casserly.

As the recipient of the Richard Green Award, Johnson received a \$10,000 college scholarship to present to a high school senior of his choice in the Atlanta Public Schools or from his high school alma mater.

#