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Council of the Great City Schools

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## **Houston Schools Superintendent Named Urban Educator of the Year**

MILWAUKEE, Oct. 23 – Superintendent Terry Grier of the Houston Independent School District tonight won 2014 Urban Educator of the Year honors at the Council of the Great City Schools’ 58th Annual Fall Conference here.

Five big-city school superintendents competed for the nation’s highest honor for urban education leadership, recognizing in alternating years an outstanding superintendent and school board member from 67 of the largest urban school systems in the country.

Urban school leaders recognized Superintendent Grier during the Council’s 25<sup>th</sup> Annual “Urban Educator of the Year” award banquet, where he received the prestigious Green-Garner Award in memory of two urban school leaders.

Sponsored by the Washington, D.C.-based Council, Aramark K-12 Education and Voyager Sopris Learning companies, the top prize is named for Richard R. Green, the first African American chancellor of the New York City school system, and businessman Edward Garner, who had served on the Denver school board,

Leading the nation’s seventh largest school district since 2009, Dr. Grier is credited with accelerating academic gains to produce a higher graduation rate, especially among African American and Hispanic students, and substantially decreasing the student dropout rate.

His efforts to improve student access to Advanced Placement coursework have paid dividends in a rising number of students participating in AP exams and earning high marks. Also, student participation in the SAT college-entrance exam has jumped significantly.

“Superintendent Terry Grier knows how to confront challenges in urban education, and has the commitment, experience and energy to overcome the odds to provide a quality education for students,” says Council Executive Director Michael Casserly.

As the recipient of this year’s Green-Garner Award, Dr. Grier receives a \$10,000 college scholarship to present to a student.

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