

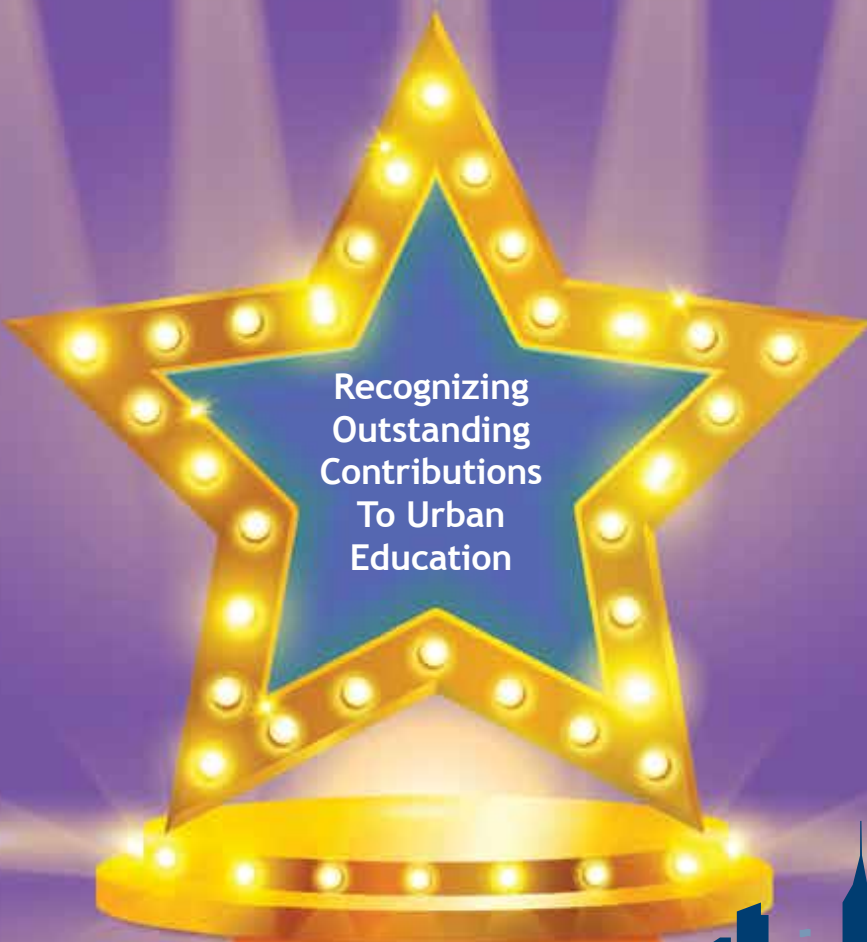
AWARDS PROGRAMS

GREEN GARNER AWARD

2025 BOARD MEMBER APPLICATION

THE 36TH ANNUAL
GREEN★GARNER
AWARD PROGRAM

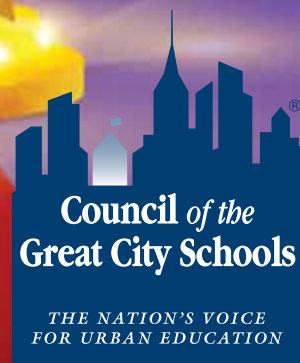
Honoring the Memories of Richard R. Green, Leading Urban School Chancellor &
Edward J. Garner, Urban School Board Leader



Recognizing
Outstanding
Contributions
To Urban
Education



Premier Partner

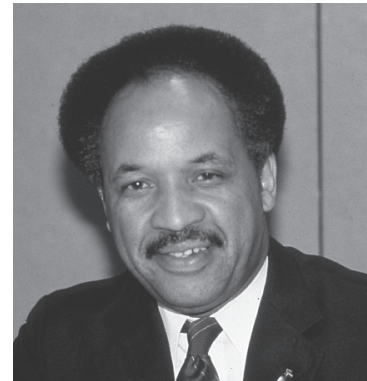




THE THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL
GREEN-GARNER AWARD PROGRAM

Richard R. Green (1936–1989)

- Earned doctorate in Educational Administration from Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Led the nation's largest school system as chancellor of New York City Public Schools
- Mentored urban school superintendents nationwide



"IF YOU BELIEVE IT, YOU CAN ACHIEVE IT.
IF IT IS TO BE, IT'S UP TO ME."

Edward J. Garner (1942–2012)

- Outstanding businessman and former school board president, Denver Public Schools
- Played key role in establishing and funding the CGCS Urban Educator of the Year Award
- Represented school board members on the CGCS Executive Committee





The Council of the Great City Schools is committed to recognizing and supporting outstanding leadership in urban education in honor of Richard R. Green and Edward Garner.

THE COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS is pleased to sponsor the annual Green-Garner Award in Urban Education. This year's award is dedicated to honoring one of our school board members. Next year's award will spotlight one of our superintendents. The honor has been named for our outstanding colleagues and friends—Richard Green, the former Chancellor of the New York City Public Schools and former Superintendent of the Minneapolis Public Schools, and Edward Garner, the former School Board President of Denver Public Schools. This award will be presented during the 69th Annual Fall Conference in Philadelphia.

Urban education has been blessed with many dedicated and talented individuals. Board members who will be nominated will have helped spearhead the comeback and progress of the nation's urban schools. These remarkable individuals have worked tirelessly on behalf of our very special children.



Toledo Public Schools Superintendent Romules Durant, middle, hold his 2024 Green Garner Award he was presented with at the 68th Fall Conference in Dallas.

PREMIER PARTNER

SCHOLASTIC is proud to sponsor the Green-Garner Award in Urban Education, which honors the legacy of our inspired colleagues by recognizing educators in America's urban schools who exemplify the highest standards of leadership, achievement, professionalism and inclusion. We appreciate your unwavering commitment to children. We are proud to be your partner in working to improve literacy, raise achievement, and provide opportunity for all children in this country.

For more than 100 years, Scholastic Corporation has been meeting children where they are - at school, at home and in their communities—by creating quality content and experiences, all beginning with literacy. Scholastic delivers stories, characters, and learning moments that empower all kids to become lifelong readers and learners through bestselling children's books, literacy—and knowledge-building resources for schools, including classroom magazines and award-winning, entertaining children's media. As the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books through school-based book clubs and book fairs, classroom libraries, school and public libraries, retail, and online, and with a global reach into more than 135 countries, Scholastic encourages the personal and intellectual growth of all children, while nurturing a lifelong relationship with reading, themselves, and the world around them. Learn more at: www.scholastic.com.



THE THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GREEN-GARNER AWARD PROGRAM



Boston School Board member Michael O’Neill, middle, holds his 2023 Green-Garner Award he was presented with at the 67th Annual Fall Conference in San Diego.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In tribute to the memories of Richard R. Green and Edward Garner, the Council of the Great City Schools will present an award in their names to a past or present Council member superintendent or board of education member. The award rotates annually between superintendents and board members, and winners will be awarded for representing one or more of the ideals and commitments expressed by Richard Green and Edward Garner (see Selection Criteria, page 5). The 2025 Green-Garner Award winner will be honored at the 69th Annual Fall Conference of the Council of the Great City Schools and will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship to present to a senior in a high school from the winner’s school system.



Detroit Schools Superintendent Nikolai Vitti, right, holds his 2022 Green-Garner Award he was presentend with at the 66th Fall Conference in Orlando.

THE WINNER WILL:

- ★ Receive nationwide recognition in the news and various trade media, as well as a special profile in the Council of the Great City Schools newsletter, *Urban Educator*.
- ★ Receive a \$10,000 college scholarship to present to a senior in high school from their school system.

IMPORTANT DATES

AUGUST 22, 2025

Last day to submit the online nomination form and all supplemental materials.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Distinguished panel selects Green-Garner Finalists and Award Winner

OCTOBER 23, 2025

The Green-Garner Award Winner will be announced and honored at the Annual Fall Conference.

THE THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GREEN-GARNER AWARD PROGRAM



SELECTION PROCESS

The Green-Garner Award Program in 2025 is open to all past and present Board Members of the Council of the Great City Schools. All current superintendents and Board of Education members of the Council of the Great City Schools may make nominations for a past or present Board Member for the Green-Garner Award Program. Those nominating a candidate should fill out the [application online](#) and submit all supplemental materials via email.

The Council of the Great City Schools will review all applications for completion. A distinguished panel of current and former superintendents and school board members will select the recipient of the annual Green-Garner Award. The online application must be completed in its entirety no later than August 22, 2025.



Julie Cyprien, a 2023 graduate of Boston Public Schools, received the Green-Garner \$10,000 college scholarship presented by Boston Public Schools Board Member Michael O'Neill, second from left, winner of the 2023 Green-Garner Award.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Applicants for the Green-Garner Award should be able to demonstrate one or more of the following ideals cherished by Dr. Green and Mr. Garner:

LEADERSHIP

- ★ The applicant has shown excellence in leadership and sustained that leadership over a number of years.
- ★ The applicant has improved the quality and stability of the district through his or her leadership and governance.

ACHIEVEMENT

- ★ The nominee has demonstrated that his or her leadership has been instrumental in improving student achievement districtwide for a number of years.
- ★ The applicant has demonstrated that his or her leadership has been instrumental in narrowing achievement gaps in his or her district over a number of years.

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

- ★ The applicant has helped improve the public's confidence in his or her school district.

PROFESSIONALISM

- ★ The applicant embodies the personal characteristics and professional accomplishments that reflect well on urban education and the progress it is striving to make.

INVOLVEMENT

- ★ The applicant has shown active and sustained participation in and support of the Council of the Great City Schools.



THE THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GREEN-GARNER AWARD PROGRAM

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- ★ The application is available ONLINE ONLY at <https://tinyurl.com/2025GreenGarnerAward>
- ★ Each nomination must include a completed online form and all supplemental materials emailed before the deadline.

If you have any questions, please email:

Alka Pateriya
 Director of Strategy and Partnerships
 Council of the Great City Schools
apateriya@cgcs.org

CLICK HERE TO APPLY ONLINE:
<https://tinyurl.com/2025GreenGarnerAward>



Michael Hinojosa, second from right, presented Kamila Vargas, a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School in Dallas, second from left, with a \$10,000 Green-Garner college scholarship at a school board meeting.



Marta Pérez, second from left, presented six Miami high school seniors with a \$1,700 Green-Garner scholarship during an awards ceremony.



APPLICATION SPECIFICATIONS (Must be submitted online.)

- ★ Board member nominee’s contact and district information
- ★ Board member nominee’s resume
- ★ Board member nominee’s educational background
- ★ A color photograph of the board member nominee
- ★ One page responses to each of the following prompts: (You will email these responses to apateriya@cgcs.org.)
 1. How has the nominee’s tenure as a school board member improved the quality and stability of your district’s leadership and governance?
 2. How has the nominee’s leadership as a school board member helped to improve student achievement district-wide and narrow the district’s achievement gaps? Include specific data.
 3. How has the nominee’s leadership as a school board member helped improve public confidence in your district?
 4. How has the nominee’s leadership as a school board member exemplified the progress that urban schools nationwide are determined to make?
 5. How has the nominee and his or her district participated over the years in the Council of the Great City Schools?
 6. Please describe why you believe your candidate will be the best recipient of the The Green-Garner Award.
- ★ Any additional supporting documents (copies of letters, testimonials, news clippings).

CLICK HERE TO APPLY ONLINE:

<https://tinyurl.com/2025GreenGarnerAward>



THE THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL
GREEN-GARNER AWARD PROGRAM

WE ARE Public Education

Defining the Future.



69TH ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 22-26, 2025
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA



The Council of the Great City Schools is the only national organization exclusively representing the needs of urban public schools. Composed of 78 large city school districts, its mission is to promote the cause of urban schools and to advocate for inner-city students through legislation, research and media relations. The organization also provides a network for school districts sharing common problems to exchange information, and to collectively address new challenges as they emerge in order to deliver the best possible education for urban youth.

For more information, please visit www.cgcs.org.



For more than 100 years, Scholastic has been encouraging the personal and intellectual growth of all children, beginning with literacy. Having earned a reputation as a trusted partner to educators and families, Scholastic is the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books, a leading provider of literacy curriculum, professional services, and magazines, and a producer of educational and entertaining children's media. The Company creates and distributes bestselling books and e-books, print and technology-based learning programs for pre-K to grade 12, and other products and services that support children's learning and literacy, both in school and at home.

Learn more at www.scholastic.com.

THE 36TH ANNUAL
GREEN★GARNER
AWARD PROGRAM

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PREMIER PARTNER

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557 Broadway, New York City, NY 10012

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**MICHAEL D. CASSERLY LEGACY AWARD FOR
COURAGE AND JUSTICE**



\$10,000 Michael Casserly Legacy Scholarship for Educational Courage and Justice



The \$10,000 scholarship is part of the Dr. Michael Casserly Legacy Award for Educational Courage and Justice, named after the Council of the Great City Schools' former executive director. Sponsored by Curriculum Associates, the annual award, now in its fifth year, is presented to a person who has made outstanding contributions in the field of Grades K–12 urban education by taking a courageous and passionate stance on the issue of educational justice and equity.

This year's recipient of the award was Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn). DeLauro has served in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1990 and is the ranking member of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee. Throughout her congressional career, she has fought to increase support for education and make college more affordable for more American students and their families.

ELIGIBILITY

The \$10,000 Dr. Michael Casserly Legacy Scholarship for Educational Courage and Justice will be awarded to a 2025 graduate of a high school in Boston Public Schools or Providence Public Schools. The student must be enrolling in a two or four-year college in Fall 2025.

CRITERIA

Students applying for the scholarship must write an essay that is no longer two pages that answers the following questions:

- » What activities you were involved in at school or in your community?
- » How will this scholarship make a difference for you?
- » What are your academic and professional goals and how will you use your college degree to improve the world we live in?

HOW TO APPLY

The application is available **ONLINE ONLY**. To complete an application click [here](#). You may also access the application at: <https://tinyurl.com/yj5dtjyp>. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is **Wednesday, June 11, 2025**. If you have any questions, contact the Council's Director of Communications Tonya Harris at: tharris@cgcs.org



ABOUT MICHAEL CASSERLY

Called a 'crusader' for city schoolchildren by USA TODAY, Michael Casserly took the reins of the Council in January 1992 after serving as the group's director of legislation and research for 15 years. When he stepped aside in March 2021, he was the longest serving chief among the major national education membership organizations.

As head of the Council, Casserly unified urban schools nationwide around a vision of reform and improvement; launched an aggressive research program on trends in urban education; convened the first Education Summit of Big City Mayors and Urban School Superintendents; led the nation's largest urban school districts to volunteer for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP); led the first national study of common practices among the nation's fastest improving urban school districts, and launched national task forces on achievement gaps, leadership and governance, finance, professional development, and bilingual education.

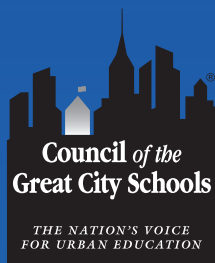
Casserly is currently serving in the role of Strategic Adviser at the Council through 2025.

QUEEN SMITH AWARD

2 0 2 5

QUEEN SMITH *Award*

FOR COMMITMENT TO
URBAN EDUCATION





Council of the Great City Schools &
McGraw-Hill Education
Announce

The Queen Smith Award for Commitment to Urban Education 2025



Queen was a much loved and admired colleague who always said it like it was. She worked with many of us in key accounts, at national exhibits, and participated in all new product development discussions. She was well-known nationally in urban accounts and elsewhere. In the early 1990s, she established the Educator's Collaborative, a leadership group of national educational leaders, brought together to focus on the needs of urban schools and children. During the last several years of her life, she was a major presence in the Council of the Great City Schools and was Chair of the Urban Education Technology Form (UETF) section of the Council. She was also active in the National Alliance of Black School Educators. In 1996, Queen represented Macmillan/McGraw-Hill on a trip to South Africa with a number of other educators to learn about their educational system and to share ideas about our system. This was a very proud moment for her.



Queen joined Macmillan/McGraw-Hill School Publishing Company in June 1989. She had been a junior high school teacher and was involved in school publishing as a sales representative, consultant, consultant manager, and a software curriculum specialist. In 1991, she served as Urban Specialist and then promoted to Vice President, Urban Sales.



The Queen Smith Award for Commitment to Urban Education was established in October 1998 in celebration of the unwavering commitment Queen gave to children, her community, and her church. During the Council's 69th Annual Fall Conference (October 22-26) in Philadelphia, PA, \$5,000 will be awarded to a teacher who has made significant contributions to education and to the community. The \$5,000 award will be presented Thursday, October 23rd. Additionally, \$1,000 will be awarded to the Council of the Great City Schools whose programs serve as models for educating future generations.



The Queen Smith Award for Commitment to Urban Education 2025

APPLICATION SPECIFICATIONS (Must be submitted online, with all supplemental materials emailed to apateriya@cgcs.org.)

- * Teacher nominee’s name and contact information
- * Nominee’s Resume (Please indicate full education and work history)
- * List of official recognition of the nominee’s contributions to education: awards, citations, community recognition, etc.
- * Nomination letter explaining why you believe the nominee deserves to receive *The Queen Smith Award for Commitment to Urban Education*.
- * Two letters of reference (From people other than the nominator)
- * Short biographical sketch of the teacher
- * Color photograph (high-resolution) of the nominee

CLICK HERE TO APPLY ONLINE:
<https://tinyurl.com/CGCSQueenSmith2025>

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

NOMINEES

- Nominees must be a teacher. Superintendents and board members should apply for the Green/Garner Award.
- School district must be an active member of the Council of the Great City Schools.
- Nominees must be willing to attend the Annual Fall Conference to accept the award during an evening banquet, Thursday, October 23rd. Registration is waived for winner and a guest.
- Nominees must submit a current photograph.
- Proof of volunteer community involvement is required.
- Employees, retirees or relatives of employees or retirees of McGraw-Hill Education are not eligible to be nominated.
- Neither the members constituting the Board of Judges, nor their relatives, are eligible to be nominated. The Council of the Great City Schools will select the Board of Judges.

NOMINATING PROCEDURE

- Each year, the Board of Judges will select one winner from nominations **submitted** to the Council of the Great City Schools.
- Nominations sent directly to McGraw-Hill Education will not be considered.
- **Completed nominations must be received by August 22, 2025.**

JUDGING CRITERIA

The award winner:

- must have made a significant impact in the field of education.
- must be effectively involved in a community organization whose policies and programs support the perpetuation of creative and effective education for all age groups.
- must have taken a significant leadership role in furthering a specific aspect of education (curriculum, technology, policymaking, etc.).
- must be serving the interest of children as an employee in a member district of the Council of the Great City Schools at the time of nomination.
- *The Queen Smith Award* will be awarded without regard to race, creed, religion, sex, age, or national affiliation.

DEADLINE

Nominations must be received by the Council of the Great City Schools by August 22, 2025. The winner will be notified by the Council of the Great City Schools.

Queen Smith Recipients



2024 Queen Smith Award was granted to Mona Al-Hayani of Toledo Public Schools



2023 Queen Smith Award was granted to Christina Kirk of Oklahoma City Public Schools.



A McGraw-Hill representative, left, and Council Executive Director Ray Hart presented Shawn Beightol, a science and chemistry teacher at John A. Ferguson Senior High School in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, with the 2022 Queen Smith award.



A McGraw-Hill representative, left, and former Council Executive Director Michael Casserly presented Andrea Greene, the choral director at Jones High School in Florida's Orange County Public Schools in Orlando, with the 2018 Queen Smith award.



Alicia Isaac, a teacher for 11 years at Boca Ciega High School in Florida's Pinellas County Schools, was presented with the 2017 Queen Smith Award. A social studies teacher, Isaac created an afterschool study club that led to significant increases in the number of students passing Advanced Placement exams.

A

ll children are to be endeared and nurtured with careful guidance. With this in mind, each generation is bequeathed a legacy of unwavering commitment by the torch we all must carry.”

– Queen Smith

Council of the Great City Schools will present the Queen Smith Award for Commitment to Urban Education to an urban school teacher who has made significant contributions to education and the community at the Council’s 69th Annual Fall Conference. Sponsored by McGraw-Hill Education, the award is named in memory of the company’s late vice president of urban programs.



COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS
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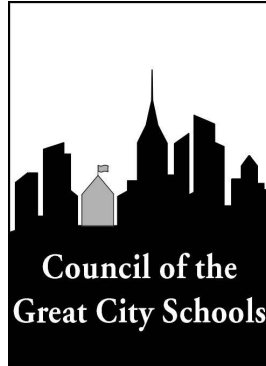
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

DR. SHIRLEY S. SCHWARTZ URBAN IMPACT AWARD

COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY COLLEGES OF EDUCATION

DR. SHIRLEY S. SCHWARTZ URBAN EDUCATION IMPACT AWARD

APPLICATION



April, 2025

Please return to the Council of the Great City Schools by **September 5, 2025**

Email all to applications Michell Yorkman at

myorkman@cgcs.org

In recognition of an outstanding school-based project, conducted by faculty from the member institutions of the Council of the Great City Colleges of Education in the Great City Schools.

College/District Submitting: _____

Partnering College/District: _____

Faculty Name & Title: _____

Telephone Number & Email: _____

II. Evaluation: Evidence of Impact

1. Has this project been evaluated and when?

No

Yes

If yes, when?

2. Who conducted the evaluation? Was it in-house or an outside evaluation?

3. In specific terms, describe **evidence** that this program/project increased P-12 student learning. Please indicate the variables assessed, with what instrument or method, and the time frame of the data. *Attach* a one-two page (double-spaced, 12 point font) explanation of the evidence that reveals if/how much student learning was impacted.

4. In specific terms, describe **evidence** that this program/project increased teacher/educator/leader effectiveness and/or had an impact on other significant issues that the profession faces (e.g., teacher retention, teacher retention in high need schools, principal turnover). Please indicate the variables assessed, with what instrument, method or set of metrics, and the time frame of the data. *Attach* one-two page (double-spaced, 12 point font) explanation of evidence that reveals if/how teacher/educator/leader effectiveness or other issues were impacted.

5. What are the key or salient features of the project/program that have resulted in the positive impact cited in #3 and #4? Please describe each.

6. How has the evaluation data been used to improve, sustain, or extend the program/project?

7. Provide any additional information that you would like for the reviewers to consider in the area of **Evaluation: Evidence of Impact**.

Sustainability and Scale

1. Indicate all sources of funding and approximate amounts for this project.

University

School district

State grants

Foundation(s) (please include name of Foundation)

Local businesses

Federal grants (please include name of grant funding)

Other (please specify)

2. Provide an annual cost estimate of the project/program.

\$

3. If this project/program has been funded by external resources (e.g., grants, businesses), what is the plan to sustain it at the end of the external funding period?

4. In what ways, other than the financial aspects, have you sustained/internalized this project/program or how do you plan to do so?

5. How have you scaled up the program/project or how do you plan to do so?

6. Provide any additional information that you would like for the reviewers to consider in the area of **Sustainability and Scale**.

**Please attach two letters of support that address the award criteria,
one from each of the following:**

Dean of the College/School of Education (or designee)

Superintendent of Schools (or designee)

Please return this application packet by September 5, 2025 to:

**Michell Yorkman, Manager of Conferences and Partnerships
Council of the Great City Schools**

myorkman@cgs.org

COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY COLLEGES OF EDUCATION

SHIRLEY S. SCHWARTZ URBAN EDUCATION IMPACT AWARD APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The Council of the Great City Colleges of Education, in keeping with its mission to develop and maintain a system of mutually beneficial support for colleges of education and urban schools to improve student learning, annually honors an outstanding educational partnership program with the Shirley S. Schwartz Urban Education Impact Award. The winning partnerships will receive a \$2000 scholarship to be awarded to a deserving student graduating from the winning district, attending the partnering University.

Application Eligibility

Member institutions may submit one college/school partnership school-based project for consideration for the award. Winning partnerships are ineligible to submit applications for five years. has received the award within the past five years. Eligibility for the award is limited to projects that are being implemented in partnership with a member district of the Council of the Great City Schools. **All participating Colleges of Education must be paid members of the Council of the Great City Colleges of Education and all partnering Schools Districts must be paid members of the Council of the Great City Schools.** Additionally, the project needs to be currently operating and have been in existence for at least two academic years. Applications require a letter of support from the Dean of the college of education and a letter of support from the Superintendent or superintendent's designee of the partner Great City School district. The deadline for submission of the application is **September 5, 2025**.

Review Process and Selection Criteria

A committee composed of members of the Council of the Great City Colleges of Education and the Council of the Great City Schools will make the final selection for the award. The Committee will use the following criteria to determine quality and select the winning project:

1. Project/Program Design (10 points)

- Nature of the program/project: significance of the program/project in urban education
- Scope of the program/project: number and extent to which program/project impacts groups of Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students and groups of IHE students, district teachers, IHE faculty and leaders

2. Evidence of Impact (50 points)

- Evidence of an increase in educator/leader effectiveness and K-12 learning: documented evidence of the impact of the project/program on increasing educator effectiveness or reducing professional issues on Pre-Kindergarten – 12th grade student learning

3. Scale and Sustainability (40 points)

- Evidence of a link to system reform: documented evidence of how the project is impacting the broader policy projects across the partnership districts.