AWARDS PROGRAMS
GREEN GARNER AWARD
THE 33RD ANNUAL
GREEN★GARNER
AWARD FINALISTS

ADDISON DAVIS
Superintendent
Hillsborough County Public Schools

JOE GOTHARD
Superintendent
Saint Paul Public Schools

DIANA L. GREENE
Superintendent
Duval County Public Schools

GUADALUPE GUERRERO
Superintendent
Portland Public Schools

MILLARD HOUSE II
Superintendent
Houston Independent School District

JESUS F. JARA
Superintendent
Clark County School District

SEAN McDANIEL
Superintendent
Oklahoma City Public Schools

MARTY POLLIO
Superintendent
Jefferson County Public Schools

NIKOLAI P. VITTI
Superintendent
Detroit Public Schools Community District

Recognizing Outstanding Contributions To Urban Education

SCHOLASTIC
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Council of the Great City Schools
MICHAEL D. CASSERLY LEGACY AWARD FOR COURAGE AND JUSTICE
Michael Casserly Legacy Award for Educational Courage and Justice

Eligibility and Criteria for Award

Approved by the Executive Committee of the
Council of the Great City Schools
January 2022

Eligibility

Individuals who are in senior positions and able to affect the well-being of urban public education and improve its overall quality, direction, and reputation will be eligible for the award. This could include urban school superintendents, urban school board members, members of Congress or other federal, state, or city elected officials, cabinet officials, researchers, advocates, nonprofit organizational heads, scholars, legal experts, writers, foundation heads, teachers, and others.

Criteria

Winners of the award will be able to demonstrate a substantial number of the following:

- An initiative or track record of action resulting in the improvement of academic performance and student outcomes in urban schools over an extended period;
- Activity that demonstrates courage, audacity, or bravery on behalf of urban schools and urban schoolchildren;
- Activity that results in substantial additional funding or support for urban public schools and the children they serve;
- Sustained activity that improves the public’s confidence in urban schools and urban schoolchildren, the public’s understanding of the challenges facing urban public schools, or the public’s support of urban schools and urban schoolchildren;
- Consistent and lasting demonstration of and commitment to justice, equity, and opportunity for all urban school children; and
- Reflect the highest standards and reputation of the Council of the Great City Schools.

Award

The award shall be given annually by the Council of the Great City Schools at its March Legislative/Policy Conference or such other time that the Executive Committee of the organization shall determine. If available, the U.S. Secretary of Education will be invited to present the award or attend the award ceremony.

Selection

Nominations for the award may be made by any member of the Board of Directors of the Council of the Great City Schools. The selection of the awardee will be made annually by the Chair of the Board, the Executive Director and Michael Casserly.

Scholarship

The awardee shall give a $10,000 scholarship funded by Curriculum Associates to a Great City School graduate who aspires to leadership in urban education.
Memo

Dr. Michael Casserly Legacy Award for Educational Courage and Justice
March 2021

To honor the legacy of Dr Michael Casserly, the longtime Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors voted in July 2020 to establish an annual award in his name.

This award will be given annually during the March Legislative Conference in DC, (the city Michael has worked in for 40+ years). As the Council already has awards specific to superintendents / board members/ teachers / colleges of education, amongst others, this instead will be open to anyone in urban public K-12 education: heads of foundations and non-profits, district and city leaders, elected officials at a federal, state or urban level, district leadership, etc..

The common denominator is someone who has done something that personifies what Michael based his career on: taking a courageous and passionate stance on the issue of educational justice and equity. The history of the Council of the Great City Schools under Dr Casserly’s leadership includes numerous examples of the Council staking out positions that are often cutting-edge and potentially controversial for a national coalition, but are always focused on a moral core that puts all of the youth that we collective serve first.

For example, Dr. Casserly was the only head of a national education organization to support the 2002 No Child Left Behind legislation due to its emphasis on closing achievement gaps for specific at-risk student groups, as enacted under Education Secretary Rod Paige.

The Council also played a major role in initiating what became known as the Common Core State Standards, and was the first national membership group to endorse them.

Additionally, the Council was instrumental in the development of the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) as part of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) to provide an assessment of educational progress by our member districts.

Each year, a national education official (Sec of Ed, Education Chair from House or Senate, etc.) will present the award. By focusing on the March conference, it stands alone from our other awards.

As with the Green Garner, there will be a scholarship attached. This will be awarded by the Casserly Legacy Award winner to a graduate of a Great City School system who is pursuing a graduate-level degree (masters or doctorate) in education. The award winner will select the scholarship winner.

Naturally, the first award winner for this new legacy award will be Dr Michael Casserly himself. This will be awarded on Monday, March 22, 2021, during the “virtual” legislative conference. The award will be presented by former United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Curriculum Associates has graciously agreed to sponsor the scholarship award of $10,000.

For future years, an award committee will be established to review nominations and select a winner. This committee will include Dr Casserly. Additionally, a competition will be established amongst Council member districts for a student-artist designed award that will be given to award winners going forward.
Dr. Michael D. Casserly Legacy Award for Educational Courage and Justice

To honor the legacy of Michael Casserly, the longtime Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors voted in July 2020 to establish an award in his name. The Dr. Michael D. Casserly Legacy Award for Educational Courage and Justice will be presented annually to a person who has made outstanding contributions in the field of K-12 urban education. Future recipients will be chosen for personifying what Casserly has based his career on: taking a courageous and passionate stance on the issue of educational justice and equity. The award comes with a $10,000 scholarship for a graduate from one of the Council’s 75 member school districts pursuing a graduate-level degree in education, and the award recipient will select the scholarship recipient.

The history of the Council of the Great City Schools under Dr. Casserly’s leadership includes numerous examples of the Council staking out positions that were often cutting-edge and potentially controversial for a national coalition but were always focused on a moral core that puts all the youth that we serve first. Casserly was the only head of a national education organization to support the 2002 No Child Left Behind legislation, doing so because of its emphasis on closing achievement gaps for specific at-risk student groups. The law was enacted under Education Secretary Rod Paige and President George W. Bush. The Council also played a major role in initiating what became known as the Common Core State Standards and was the first national membership group to endorse them.
2022 Queen Smith Award for Commitment to Urban Education
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 66th Annual Fall Conference (October 19-23) in Orlando, FL, $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 Friday, October 21st. Additionally, $1,000 will be awarded to the Council of Great City Schools whose programs serve as models for educating future generations.
Queen Smith Recipients

Memphis high school teacher Melissa Collins was the 2015 recipient of the Queen Smith Award.

Arthur Griffin of McGraw-Hill, left, and Council Executive Director Michael Casserly, right, presented Orlando high school teacher William Daniel, center, with the 2014 Queen Smith award.

A McGraw-Hill representative, left, and 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.

Council Executive Director Michael Casserly, left, and a McGraw-Hill representative, right, presented Orlando teacher Johanna Lopez, center, with the 2016 Queen Smith Award.

Memphis high school teacher Melissa Collins was the 2015 recipient of the Queen Smith Award.

Arthur Griffin of McGraw-Hill, left, and Council Executive Director Michael Casserly, right, presented Orlando high school teacher William Daniel, center, with the 2014 Queen Smith award.
All 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 66th Annual Fall Conference. Sponsored by McGraw-Hill Education, the award is named in memory of the company’s late vice president of urban programs.
DR. SHIRLEY S. SCHWARTZ URBAN IMPACT AWARD
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 16, 2022.

**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.