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Baltimore City Schools Equity Leader Wins Council Award

WASHINGTON, July 23 – Dr. Tracey L. Durant, senior executive director of equity for Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools), was recently presented with the “Championing Equity” Urban School District Equity Leader Award at the Council of the Great Schools’ Curriculum, Research and Instructional Leaders Conference in Chicago.

Sponsored by Amplify, the award honors an equity leader in a Council member district who has demonstrated leadership in developing strategies designed to dismantle inequities within their district.

Durant has served City Schools since 2018, where she is responsible for leading systemwide initiatives designed to promote the utilization of equitable practices, systems, and structures that ensure positive educational outcomes for students. She led a strategic equity task force charged with the development of City Schools’ Equity Policy which was unanimously approved by the Board of School Commissioners in 2019. Dr. Durant has more than 25 years of experience in the educational and nonprofit fields.

“Dr. Tracey L. Durant is a heart-led and value-driven leader who has dedicated the last five years to expanding equity across Baltimore City Public Schools with a strategic focus on improving student outcomes and schooling experiences,” said Farah Assiraj, the Council’s chief of teaching and learning. “Her work demonstrates the impact of equity when woven across the system with intentional collaboration, family engagement and community partnerships.”

A proud graduate of City Schools, Durant is a founding partner of Equity in Education Partners, an equity instructor with the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity, a Licensed Consultant with the Standards for Excellence Institute, and a Certified Professional Diversity Coach.

Durant said, “my fundamental belief is that systems change when people do, so my work has been deeply focused on building capacity and being of service to my colleagues to lead from their respective bodies of work and to utilize a guiding set of questions for decision making and leadership.”

Durant is co-author of *Humanity Over Comfort: How You Confront Systemic Racism Head On*. She has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the Daily Record’s Top

100 Women, Sojourner-Douglass College Distinguished Alum and was the inaugural recipient of the College Bound Foundation Distinguished Alumni Award. She has served as chair for several nonprofit organizations and is currently a member of the Maryland Juvenile Service Education Program board. Dr. Durant is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

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