



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jerry Weast, Retiring Montgomery County (MD) Superintendent

Joins the Board of the Institute for Educational Leadership

The Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL), a 47-year old non-profit, nonpartisan organization, has elected Jerry Weast to its Board of Directors. Jerry Weast has served as the Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) for 12 years. Dr. Weast has served during a period of great demographic change in Montgomery County and has kept the focus on narrowing the achievement gap for the district's nearly 145,000 students. Under his leadership, MCPS has been recognized in three consecutive years for achieving the highest student graduation rate among the nation's 50 largest school systems. MCPS received the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award (2010), and was a finalist for the Broad Prize in Education (2010). Dr. Weast has been named superintendent of the year in two states.

Upon his selection, Mr. Weast commented, "IEL has a long history of developing effective education leaders, and that is where I want to put my energy in the coming years. Joining the IEL board gives me an important vehicle for pursuing that goal."

"Our nation needs more school leaders like Jerry Weast," said Martin Blank, president of IEL. "We are honored to have him join our board, and look forward to working with him to develop the kind of leaders who will provide an equal opportunity for all children and youth to learn, develop, and become contributing citizens of our democracy."

Since 1964, the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) has been at the forefront of innovative efforts that bring together leaders across the various sectors of education (P-20), workforce development and child- and youth-serving systems. IEL builds partnerships across institutional boundaries, helping individuals and institutions tackle leadership challenges, leverage the resources of multiple partners to foster reform, and utilize deep and purposeful collaboration to transform learning for the 21st Century. For more information, visit www.iel.org.

Bio for Jerry D. Weast, Ed.D.

Dr. Jerry D. Weast is Superintendent of the Montgomery County Public Schools, the largest and most diverse school system in Maryland and the 16th largest district in the nation. Appointed to the position in 1999 and reappointed in 2003 and 2007, Dr. Weast has served during a period of great demographic change in Montgomery County and has kept the focus on narrowing the achievement gap for the district's nearly 145,000 students. Under his leadership, Montgomery County Public Schools has earned national recognition in consecutive years for achieving the highest student graduation rate among the nation's 50 largest school systems and has consistently led the nation in having the most high schools among the nation's top 100 high schools as identified by *Newsweek* magazine. All the district's high schools are annually ranked in the top 3% of all high schools in the nation.

The managerial excellence Dr. Weast has overseen led to Montgomery County Public Schools' receipt of the U.S. Senate/Maryland Productivity Award in 2005. The school system received the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award in 2010. The Baldrige Award is the highest honor an American organization can receive for performance excellence through innovation, improvement, and visionary leadership. The district also is a 2010 finalist for the Broad Prize for Urban Education. Montgomery County Public Schools' success in closing the achievement gap is chronicled in the book, *Leading for Equity: The Pursuit of Excellence in Montgomery County Public Schools*, (Harvard Education Press, 2009), and in numerous case studies.

In recognition of his innovative leadership in early childhood education, professional development, school accountability, and parent involvement, Dr. Weast has been named superintendent of the year in two states. He has twice been awarded North Carolina's highest honor, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, for his work on behalf of the state's children, and has received an award from the Yale School of Child Development for his support of initiatives in early learning, the C. Jackson Grayson Award for managerial excellence, and has been named a Washingtonian of the Year, among other awards and honors. Dr. Weast serves on the boards of various policy, educational, business and community organizations, including the Committee for Economic Development, Peabody College (Vanderbilt University) National Ed.D. Advisory Board, and Junior Achievement Worldwide Education Group.

Dr. Weast has presented extensively at conferences and seminars, to educators, clinicians, professional negotiators, Federal Aviation Administration managers, executives of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, education journalists, and technology professionals, on topics such as school reform, early childhood education, technology in education, strategic planning, effective leadership, community collaboration, business partnerships, school-union partnerships, professional development, and crisis management. Dr. Weast has led in developing collaborative relationships with employee organizations, which have resulted in groundbreaking professional development programs and employee evaluation systems for professional, support, and administrative personnel. These initiatives have earned national recognition.

Internationally, Dr. Weast has addressed members of the European Council of International Schools, has undertaken Fulbright-funded travel to Northern Ireland to consult with school administrators on school integration, has twice been invited to the People's Republic of China,

has spoken to professional educators in several Near and Middle Eastern countries, and has been invited by Japan's Ministry of Education to speak in Japan on the topic of school reform.

Dr. Weast has served as superintendent for 34 years, overseeing eight school districts in five states. Dr. Weast was appointed a Post Doctoral Fellow in the Graduate School of Duke University. He holds an Ed.S. Degree in General Administration from Pittsburg State University (Kansas), and an Ed.D. in Educational Administration from Oklahoma State University, where he was named to the Hall of Fame in the College of Education.

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