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E-newsletter for the Franklin Regional School District

Dr. Piraino Named 2019 State Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Gennaro R. Piraino, Jr., Superintendent of the Franklin Regional School District, has been selected as the 2019 Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA).

The goal of the prestigious awards program is to further inspire exemplary educational leadership and promote a sense of confidence and pride in the nation's public schools. Superintendent of the Year nominees are evaluated on how each candidate demonstrates leadership for learning, communication skills, professionalism and community involvement.

LEADERSHIP FOR LEARNING

Since 2013, Dr. Piraino has demonstrated both effective and collaborative leadership focused on raising student achievement and expanding student opportunities. Under his leadership, Franklin Regional (FR) has developed a college-and-career-ready approach that extends learning opportunities beyond the four walls of a classroom. For example,



- New Courses in Engineering, Bio-Medical Science, and Computer Science are offered for ALL students.
- College in high school partnerships save FR families over \$1.1 million dol-

lars each year

- A partnership with the National Math and Science Initiative resulted in a 79 percent increase in the number of



students earning qualifying scores on Advanced Placement Exams

- And, through an agreement with Discovery Education, Digital Ambassadors, collaborate with their colleagues to integrate digital learning into classrooms. These innovative teachers engage in intensive professional development on technology integration, transforming their classrooms into digital learning laboratories.

With his leadership, over the last five years, the district has demonstrated improvement in regional and state rankings.

- 9th among regional districts and 32nd out of 500 districts statewide in the 2018 Pittsburgh Business Time's Honor Roll Ranking
- Franklin Regional High School earned its first "Silver Medal" distinction in the 2018 US News & World Report's ranking of "Best High Schools in the Nation"
- The number of Franklin Regional students recognized as National Merit® Finalists and Semifinalists has increased significantly over the past five years
- Students attending career and technical centers have achieved the highest results in school histo-

ry on the National Occupation, Career & Technical Exam (NOCTE)

In nominating Dr. Piraino for this award, the district's Board of Directors and administrative team noted his commitment to educational leadership in Franklin Regional and beyond.

"Dr. Piraino leads the district with a complete focus on students, a belief in collaboration in all endeavors, and an unrelenting pursuit of continuous improvement and excellence. He understands that leadership is not about what one does independently, but rather about how one engages others in lending their voices, talents, perspectives, and efforts toward continuous improvement," they said.

PROFESSIONALISM

Grounded and approachable, with a strong moral compass to do what is right through hard work and effort, Dr. Piraino exercises collaborative leadership intent on improving opportunities and achievement for students, empowering others to contribute in meaningful ways, and daring both himself and others to "dream big."

Likewise, Dr. Piraino has demonstrated a commitment to professional leadership through service on both the PASA Technology and Research & Development committees, as a member of the board of the Tri-State Study





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Superintendent of the Year (continued)

Council of the University of Pittsburgh and as a member of the Western Pennsylvania Forum for Superintendents.

Dr. Piraino encourages a professional attitude marked by being positive, being open, being committed, being patient, being present and being supportive. Throughout his career, Dr. Piraino has demonstrated notable success as a K-12 leader in curriculum, instruction, assessment, technology integration, college and career programming, educational foundations, professional development, teacher and principal supervision systems, and other areas of organizational leadership.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

As a leader, Dr. Piraino's influence extends across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Based on Dr. Piraino's experiences and leadership, Gov. Tom Wolf appointed him to serve as the PASA representative on the Pennsylvania School Safety and Security Committee. As a member of the committee, he continues to keep other school leaders informed and updated on state efforts to improve school safety.

Regionally, Dr. Piraino is an instrumental leader in workforce development and school/community partnerships. Through his role as Chairperson of the Westmoreland County Forum for Workforce Development, Dr. Piraino has been successful in building partnerships between schools, businesses, institutions of higher education, and local government. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland.

Dr. Piraino was to be recognized at a special PASA event on Thursday, November 15, 2018 in Harrisburg, but the event was postponed due to anticipated inclement weather in the Harrisburg region. The date and location for the new award ceremony will be announced soon.

As the Pennsylvania honoree, he and 49 other state honorees will be recognized in February during the AASA National Conference on Education in Los Angeles, California.

The Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year is selected by a PASA (Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators) panel of school administrators. The National Superintendent of the Year Program was instituted 32 years ago by AASA, The School Superintendents Association, to honor outstanding public school superintendents. First Student, VALIC and AASA are co-sponsors of the award program.

