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**DELAWARE STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UNVEILS NEW LOOK FOR
SUPERSTARS IN EDUCATION, 2014 WINNERS**

WILMINGTON, DE (April 17, 2014) – The Delaware State Chamber of Commerce and its affiliate, The Partnership, Inc., are excited to unveil the revamped Superstars in Education program and its 2014 award winners, who will be recognized at a cocktail reception and awards ceremony on May 5, 2014 at 4:45 p.m. at the Sheraton Wilmington South Hotel.

Since 1989, Superstars in Education has honored Delaware educators who have implemented and sustained a creative, unique program, or a teaching practice that shows measurable results and raises student achievement. This statewide awards program is funded by the business community.

While the program remains committed to rewarding quality instruction and student achievement, Superstars in 2014 will also focus on the business community and its investment in the future, reinforcing The Partnership's original mission of encouraging private sector involvement in workforce development and education.

This year's event will highlight educators that focus on critical workplace need areas like science and technology, as well as programs that support the development of student's personal and vocational skills. School-to-business partnerships will also be recognized for their systemic contributions to increasing student achievement, career awareness and workplace skills.

"We all know that the future of Delaware depends on the foundation we build in our schools today," says Bob Andrzejewski of The Partnership. "It is imperative that today's students have tangible skills when they are ready to enter the workforce. Whether college bound, preparing for a trade job or working in the manufacturing world, students need to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to be productive employees and citizens. It is no secret that many of today's graduates are not entering the workplace with the skills businesses need and require."

Earlier this spring, the Superstars in Education Selection Committee considered nominations from public, private and parochial schools in the following categories:

- General and Business Partnerships
- Leadership
- Technology
- Science
- Special Populations Support
- Expanded Learning Opportunities

The committee received 44 total applications – from 11 different school districts – and pared from the group a shortlist of finalists. From the finalists, only nine winners were chosen.



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"The new direction for Superstars in Education has been well-received by teachers, school and district administrators, and business leaders throughout the state, Andrzejewski says.

"Recognizing outstanding educational programs, individual achievements and partnerships that contribute to the development of workplace skills for our students are highlights of which schools and the business community can be proud."

Leaders from both the education and business worlds will make appearances during the May 5 reception. Governor Jack Markell, Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn, and CAI managing director Ernie Dianastasis are scheduled to speak, along with DSCC president Rich Heffron.

The cost to attend the event is \$50 per person, and sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information about the event, or to register, visit www.dscc.com.

2014 Superstars in Education Finalists:

The following exemplary school programs were selected as finalists, and will be recognized at the awards reception, but fell just short of the top tier of Superstars winners:

"Rethinking High School"
William Penn High School

Leadership Category

"One-to-One Initiative"
Howard High School

Technology Category

"Parents as Partners, the 21st Century Way"
Brandywine Springs Elementary School

Technology Category

"Accelerated Intensive Summer Enrichment Program"
Capital School District

Expanded Learning Opportunities Category

"Booker T. Washington Extended Day Program"

Booker T. Washington Elementary School
Expanded Learning Opportunities Category

"PASS—Promoting Academic Student Success"

William Henry Middle School
Expanded Learning Opportunities Category

"Learning Through the Arts"
H.O. Brittingham Early Childhood Center

General and Business Partnerships Category

2014 Superstars in Education Winners:

From 44 nominations, the following nine programs were chosen as the best in Delaware. The 2014 Superstars in Education are:

"BRINC – Linking to the Future"

Brandywine, Indian River, New Castle County Vocational Technical, and Colonial School Districts

Leadership Category

A like-minded consortium of leaders from four school districts share best practices, resources and ideas to ensure that every high school student graduates college- and career-ready.



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“Red Clay Renovation and Construction Program”

Red Clay Consolidated School District

Business Partnerships Category

A partnership with Delaware Technical Community College, this 10-month program aimed at high school juniors and seniors imparts vocational skills in the areas of carpentry, plumbing, wiring, painting, blue print reading, and more.

“Moving to Learn”

Richardson Park Learning Center

Special Populations Support

Dedicating time and energy to health, wellness and fitness – be it jumping, dancing or fishing – helped the special-needs population at Richardson Park improve behavior and drive academic success.

“School-Wide Science Fair”

William Henry Middle School

Science Category

Striving to gain ground in students’ critical thinking and communications, a school-wide science fair was developed. Scientifically-oriented questioning, collecting evidence and forming explanations helped address both.

“McKean FFA”

McKean High School

Science Category

This intra-curricular organization, led by the school’s agriculture department, blends animal science and biotechnology, along with community service, philanthropy and vocational skill-building.

“Ursuline’s One-on-One Laptop Program”

Ursuline Academy

Technology Category

Personalizing academic tools in the classroom is key for this program, which bridges the gap between traditional instruction and computer-assisted learning with leading-edge software and web-savvy faculty.

“Blended Learning”

A.I. du Pont, Conrad, and McKean High Schools

Technology Category

Thanks to state-of-the art technology practices – including Blackboard’s Edline Learning Management System – students from two high schools can attend courses offered by either school via live video broadcasts.

“Peer to Peer Observations”

Georgetown Middle School

Leadership Category

An open-door policy led to helpful collaboration across grade levels and content areas, improving faculty communication, and driving student achievement across the board.



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"Mission: Space"

Bunker Hill Elementary School

Science Category

A STEM-driven science unit focusing on earth science, the solar system, and space travel and technology took center stage at Bunker Hill. An afterschool event, dubbed "Mission: Space," attracted more than 200 students, parents and faculty members for space-themed fun and hands-on education.

2014 Superstars in Education Sponsors

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