



## **Superintendent Endorsement of NYSSDP Candidate**

Each year since 1998, the New York State Superintendent Development Program has prepared participants for the position of Superintendent of Schools through a ten-month experience that runs from mid-January to mid-November.

To become effective superintendents, SDP participants—called *Associates*—must acquire more than a body of knowledge and skills, though these of course are critical. They must develop a deep understanding of the complex, multi-dimensional character both of the issues they will face and of the contexts in which they will serve.

Therefore, the SDP emphasizes authentic experience. Divided into regional teams around the state, associates address real issues with currently sitting superintendents. Associates will not only acquire a grasp of key topics such as finance, law, curriculum development, special education, and others, but they will see these issues from the unique perspective of the superintendency.

In 2010, the SDP program was expanded to include those practitioners whose immediate career goals were focused on district office level positions, other than the superintendency. This expansion was a result of a more broadly defined perspective that suggests that when one learns about leadership through the eyes of the superintendent, their future success as a district level director or assistant superintendent is substantially enhanced.

In addition, associates will explore themselves. They will explore and develop those intellectual, emotional, interpersonal, and creative qualities that lead to effectiveness and success in the role to which they aspire. Becoming a superintendent is not only a process of learning; it is a process of acculturation.

Like any superintendency, the SDP experience is intense and demanding, requiring a heavy investment of time, energy, and creative effort. But also like any superintendency, it offers abundant opportunity for personal satisfaction, growth, and accomplishment.

**Due to the nature of the work, support from the superintendent of prospective associates is critical. Although the need for physical presence throughout the course of the year is minimal, there are several in-person sessions including the opening session in January, the mid-year session in July, attendance at the NYSCOSS Fall Conference in October, and the culminating session in November.**



## **SUPERINTENDENT SUPPORT**

**I am aware of the commitment of the NYSSDP and have reviewed this commitment with the prospective associate. By signing below, I indicate my support and endorsement of the candidate:**

Associate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN THIS SIGNED DOCUMENT TO THE PROSPECTIVE SDP ASSOCIATE AS ONE COMPONENT OF THEIR ONLINE APPLICATION TO THE PROGRAM. The associate will be responsible to upload this signature page (.pdf) to the SDP's application portal.**