

PRESS RELEASE from the Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association

Dr. Kristen Stringfellow, Superintendent in South Kingstown, Selected as 2017 Rhode Island Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Kristen Stringfellow, Superintendent of the South Kingstown Public Schools, is the 2017 Rhode Island Superintendent of the Year. Her selection by the Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association (RISSA) was announced at its General Membership Meeting on August 17, 2016. The ovation accorded to Dr. Stringfellow by her colleagues was an indication of the high esteem in which she is held. The award recognizes outstanding achievement in school district leadership, dedication to the education of all children, commitment to the community, and service to RISSA. The award was presented to Kristen by Georgia Fortunato, Superintendent of the Lincoln Public Schools and winner of the 2016 award. In addition to her fellow administrators, Rhode Island Education Commissioner Ken Wagner, Rhode Island Innovation Officer Richard Culatta, RISSA President Dr. Michael Barnes and Kristen's mother and daughter were in attendance.

Dr. Stringfellow has served as the Superintendent in South Kingstown since 2009. She previously served as Assistant Superintendent of the Scituate School District. Prior to that she served as the Assistant Superintendent, ESL Director, Director of Gifted & Talented, Title I Director and Principal of the Alternative High School in East Providence. She was a principal in Scituate and a teacher in Providence, Cranston and East Providence.

Kristen is the recipient of numerous awards including: the 2012 Washington County Coalition of Children Award, the 2013 US Army Reserve Patriot Award, 2015 Honorary Member of the University of Rhode Island Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society, and the 2016 Norma Garnett Advocacy Award from the RI Foreign Language Association. She previously served as an adjunct faculty member at Johnson & Wales University teaching Communication in the M.B.A. program and she currently serves as an adjunct professor at Providence College where she teaches School Finance in the M.Ed. Administration program.

Under her leadership, the district has taken on numerous initiatives. They implemented a one-to-one laptop computer program at South Kingstown High School and infused technology in grades 5-8 so that every child is matched with a device, pioneered a dual language Spanish Immersion program in grades K and 1, brought Columbia University's Reading and Writing Project to the district. Through her leadership, her district team has instituted curriculum reform, technology initiatives, created an alternative high school credit recovery program and Saturday school, boosted student performance, and narrowed the achievement gap. She has also worked closely and effectively with her School Committee to bring about numerous high leverage policy improvements. She recently presented at the 2015 National School Board Convention in Nashville, TN, with her school committee on the topic of School Finance.

Kristen has been an active member of RISSA serving as Secretary, Executive Committee member, Special Awards Committee, and numerous special committees since 2009. She currently serves as the Vice-President of RISSA.

Dr. Stringfellow received her Bachelor's degrees in Psychology & Education from Rhode Island College, a Master's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Rhode Island College, a Master's degree in Administration from Providence College, a C.A.G.S. (Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study) in Educational Research and Curriculum from the University of Rhode Island, a C.A.G.S. in Educational Leadership from Johnson and Wales University and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership with a concentration in School Finance from Johnson and Wales University.

Dr. Stringfellow and her husband Peter reside in Coventry with their 4 children. She is a lifelong Rhode Island resident. Kristen is beginning her 29th year in education and her 8th year as Superintendent of Schools.

Dr. Stringfellow will be honored by the American Association of School Administrators at the National Conference on Education to be held in New Orleans in March, 2017.

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