

**AASA: The School Superintendents Association and Howard University**

## **An Exciting New National Partnership for the Preparation of Effective Urban Superintendents**

*“As a current superintendent with 12 years of experience I could never have imagined the professional growth I have gained from the Urban Superintendents Academy. This experience has introduced me to tremendous national level mentors, both practicing and retired, who have challenged my thinking and practice as it affects issues related to urban education and the unique challenges of leading in those settings. This is life changing work.”- Dr. Rod Thompson, Superintendent of Schools, Shakopee Public Schools, MN*

*“The Academy has afforded me a deeper understanding of the role of superintendent related to not only board relationships but also the intricacies of political relationships. It has made me savvy about the landscape in which superintendent has to navigate to ensure long term success. The academy affords opportunities not only to address the academic skill sets, but also operational and management protocols, through research, subject matter experts and standing superintendents.” - Traci Davis, Superintendent of Schools Washoe County School District, NV*

# The AASA Howard University Urban Superintendents Academy is recognized as one of the premier programs in the country.

Drawing on strengths of its members and partners, AASA, The School Superintendents Associations brings the most effective and inspiring thought leader practitioners to serve as instructors, mentors, and presenters. Howard University's deep and historical commitment to academic and lifetime excellence inspires participants through the university's faculty and other leaders. The two cohorts served by this program are:

**Graduate Student Cohort:** Prospective superintendents who wish to pursue a Doctorate in Educational Leadership while preparing for certification as an urban superintendent as well as state superintendent licensure.

**National Certification Cohort:** Current superintendents and administrators wishing to receive additional training and field experience in educational leadership related to urban settings. In addition to the National Certification from AASA, three graduate education credits are available.

Mentors, who will support both cohorts, will be sitting and recently retired superintendents.

## What Makes this Academy Different?

- » Capston Projects
- » Problems of practice
- » Affinity groups
- » Mentors
- » Forward-thinking
- » Board governance relations
- » Ongoing support

### Important Information

9 – Weekend Modules  
(September – May)

Tuition of \$6,000 includes all course materials, AASA membership, Howard University Graduate Education Credits and an AASA Certification.

Scholarships available

*“This unique partnership between AASA and Howard University provides an exceptional opportunity for those who wish to be leaders in urban school systems. Combining on site learning experiences, mentors, strong curriculum, affinity groups, an annual conference, and ongoing support, the Urban Superintendents Academy is a leader in preparing superintendents.”*

Dr. Dan Domenech, Executive Director, AASA

### This Academy will provide:

- Mentors, who are current and former urban superintendents.
- A consistent emphasis upon “problems of practice,” enabling the two participating cohorts to investigate together potential solutions for universal and site-specific problems, issues, and dilemmas facing urban superintendents today.
- Engaging coursework options at Howard University.
- Seminars and conference sessions offered jointly by Howard University and AASA.
- Critical friends support and networking groups that will comprise “affinity groups”.
- Internships and related field experiences, including guaranteed credit options through Howard University.
- Creative and professionally engaging Capstone Projects that ensure publication as part of the credentialing process.
- Ongoing career counseling and coaching, including simulations of interviews, public forums, and stakeholder group simulations.
- A center for research and discussion about urban school districts.
- An annual national conference open to all to participate in workshops, presentations, discussions, and problem solving related to urban school districts and leadership.

### Program Goals

The AASA/Howard University Urban Superintendent Academy is designed to help prospective and in-service educational leaders:

- Prepare for and successfully acquire a position as an urban superintendent
- Delineate and apply key skills of 21st century leadership
- Address critical problems and issues facing all urban superintendents today in a strategic and creative way
- Deal effectively and creatively with community relations and politics in the urban setting
- Use a range of 21st century facilitative skills to deal with organizational politics and relationship building in the urban school system
- Become a strategic leader who consistently demonstrates critical reasoning, problem solving, and creativity
- Learn how to effectively work with the board of education

*“Through its relevant and rigorous program, the Urban Superintendents Academy prepares a new generation of school superintendents who are committed to all schoolchildren actualizing their potential.”*

Leslie T. Fenwick, Ph.D., Dean, Howard University School of Education

## Program Overview

The challenges of dramatic demographic shifts, technology explosions, and a rapidly transforming job market require a rethinking and transformational approach to preparing educational leaders. Urban and increasingly diverse suburban districts require leaders who are fully prepared for the challenges facing every urban superintendent.

Additionally, universities and educational leadership groups must be responsible for capturing the range of stresses, challenges, and demands of a challenging and exciting educational environment.

AASA and Howard University are committed to this new collaboration becoming a catalyst in bringing about much needed transformation.

These two internationally-recognized leadership groups have formed a partnership to prepare

individuals for certification and success in urban and increasingly diverse suburban settings. The AASA/Howard University Urban Superintendents Academy is a collaborative partnership designed to expand the pool of underrepresented superintendent groups.

The Academy will offer prospective and in-service superintendents a revolutionary new approach to ensuring success in urban settings. The program will offer professional development, clinical field experiences, and a range of resources to prepare for success in the urban and increasingly diverse suburban school district.

Starting with a conference in August, members of the Academy will convene one weekend a month and will connect online.

## AASA/Howard University Urban Superintendents Academy Steering Committee:

**Dan Domenech**, Executive Director,  
AASA

**Leslie Fenwick**, Dean, Howard University

**Joe Hairston**, Howard University  
Assistant Professor, Co-Chair

**Mort Sherman**, AASA Associate  
Executive Director, Co-Chair

**Sharon Adams-Taylor**, Associate  
Executive Director, AASA

**Deborah Keys**, Director, Equity  
Programming Department, National  
School Boards Association (NSBA)

**Walter Lundy**, Graduate Student,  
Howard University

**Dawn Williams**, Educational Leadership  
and Policy Studies Department Chair  
Howard University

**Dana Bedden**  
Superintendent  
Richmond, VA

**Robert Copeland**  
Superintendent  
Lower Merion, PA

**Michael Hall**  
Special Assistant Chief  
Field, U.S. Census Bureau

**Bernard Hamilton**  
President  
National Alliance of  
Black School Educators  
(NABSE)

**Ken Hamilton**  
Superintendent  
Mount Vernon, NY

**James Harvey**  
Executive Director  
National Superintendents  
Roundtable

**Shanika Hope**  
Vice President  
National Urban Market  
Initiatives McGraw-Hill  
Education

**Gregory Hutchings**  
Superintendent  
Shaker Heights, OH

**Dwight Jones**  
Superintendent in Residence  
Discovery

**Sam King**  
2011 State Superintendent  
of the Year, Georgia

**Maria Ott**  
Board of Directors,  
Association of Latino  
Administrators and  
Superintendents (ALAS),  
University of Southern  
California

**Gina Patterson**  
Executive Director  
Virginia School Boards  
Association (VSBA)

**Veronica Rivera**  
Executive Director  
Association of Latino  
Administrators and  
Superintendents

**Greg Thornton**  
Superintendent  
Baltimore City, MD

**Lee Vargas**  
Executive Vice President  
AVID