



Dr. Deborah Jewell-Sherman is Senior Lecturer at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education (HGSE) and has built a reputation over the past decade as one of the most successful urban district superintendents in the country. Prior to joining the HGSE faculty, Dr. Jewell-Sherman served as Superintendent of Richmond Public Schools - with a track record of success that culminated in her being named Virginia Superintendent of the Year 2009 by the Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS). "Etched on my soul is the belief that demography cannot be destiny," was her mantra, as she and her team worked to turn around some of the city's most impoverished schools. During her appointment, 95 percent of Richmond's lowest performing schools achieved full accreditation under Virginia's Standards of

Learning reform legislation. In addition, the district improved from 18 percent to 91.7 percent of all schools meeting this standard as measured by the State Department of Education (2008). Dr. Jewell-Sherman is deeply committed to preparing the next generation of leaders. Currently, she serves as the Director of the Urban Superintendents Program and is the principal investigator for an initiative between the faculty of HGSE and the University of Johannesburg in South Africa, as well as a key faculty member for HGSE's new Doctor of Education Leadership Degree (Ed.L.D). Dr. Jewell-Sherman is honored today because she gives voice to women and minority leaders and to the moral imperative to eliminate inequities that impact children in school systems across America.



Dr. Sheila Harrison-Williams, Superintendent of Hazel Crest School District in Illinois, and **Dr. Constance R. Collins**, Superintendent in Round Lake District 116 in Illinois, have been called relentless in their efforts to diversify the education pipeline. Together, these two extremely busy superintendents, have built an infrastructure that has contributed to the success of aspiring superintendents as they seek entry into the field of school district leadership. They developed and for eight years, voluntarily convened, a one-day workshop for aspiring superintendents that addresses the barriers women and minorities face in seeking the superintendency and

identifies strategies to overcome the barriers. In 2011, Drs. Harrison-Williams and Collins received corporate funding and coordinated a 3-day "Aspiring Superintendents" Summer Institute designed to provide a more in-depth preparation program for women and minorities, including the assignment of a mentor. The success of the 2011 Institute has created an even greater demand for continued focus on preparation of minorities for superintendent leadership training during the summer of 2012. In addition to being co-recipients of this humanitarian award, in November 2011, they were co-recipients of the Joseph E. Hill Superintendent of the Year Award given by the National Alliance of Black School Educators.



Dr. Constance R. Clark-Snead, educator and advocate for children, has served in various capacities from teacher to Principal, Associate Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent in Washington, D.C. Currently she is the Superintendent of the Westbury Union Free School District in New York State. For years, Westbury was a troubled district with underperforming students and a revolving door as superintendents came and went. Dr. Clark-Snead has been there now 12 years and has done a magnificent job for the community, the schools and the children they serve. She truly cares and is an advocate for all students and that attitude has unified the community behind her efforts. Dr. Clark-Snead also has an appreciation for culture and competency and is receiving this award both for the work she has done on behalf

of poor children on Long Island and her efforts to promote a diverse community of administrators and staff within her district.