



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jeremy A. Cooney

## Sen. Cooney Recognizes RCSD Principal For Leadership in Urban Education

JEREMY A. COONEY May 14, 2021

| ISSUE: **NATIONAL PRINCIPALS' DAY**

**(Rochester, NY)** - Senator Jeremy Cooney (D-56) awarded Dr. Shalonda Garfield with a New York State proclamation which honors her leadership as a principal and teacher. Dr. Garfield is the principal of Andrew J. Townson School No. 39, which educates students in pre-K through 6th grade on the southwest side of the City of Rochester.

Dr. Garfield's journey from not finishing high school and completing her GED to earning two advanced degrees and holding leadership roles in education serves as an inspiration to her students and colleagues. Sen. Cooney awarded Dr. Garfield during National Teachers week and in honor of National Principals' day.

### **Dr. Shalonda Garfield**

"If we are to truly achieve equity and excellence in education we need courageous leaders who are unwilling to accept the status quo. I am committed to ensuring that children receive a high quality education that inspires greatness and empowers them to take ownership of their future. This vision is nurtured in a welcoming school environment that values shared leadership, collaboration, relationships, student voice, innovative solutions and a mindset fixed on high expectations coupled with high support. Children deserve to be surrounded by excited adults who uplift, explore and have fun learning alongside them. I strive to empower

my staff in ways that cultivate excellence and teacher efficacy. While this honor is attributed to my steadfast leadership and commitment to equity in education, I am reminded of the many ground-breaking leaders who have paved the way for me to positively manifest throughout my career. In turn, it is my moral responsibility to inspire the present and future generation of leaders to leave their mark. To whom much is given much is expected.”

**Senator Jeremy Cooney**

“Dr. Garfield has dedicated her life to being a role model educator,” said Senator Cooney. “Dr. Garfield is a change agent who not only makes a difference for her students in the classroom, but she seeks to improve an education system and break down barriers for her students. I am honored to recognize her work.”

**Dr. Lesli Myers-Small Superintendent of RCSD**

“I am grateful to Dr. Garfield for the passion she brings to her students and her school community. She leads by example with excellent relationship building skills and is a positive role model for all in our District. The School No. 39 community and the entire District benefit from Shalonda’s leadership.”