Miami School Leader Rudolph Crew Named 2008 National Superintendent of the Year

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Contact:
Amy Vogt, AASA
703-774-6955 (Feb. 15-17)
703-875-0723 (After Feb. 17)
avogt@aasa.org

David Gargione
ARAMARK Education
215-238-3559
gargione-david@aramark.com

TAMPA, Fla. – Rudolph “Rudy” Crew, superintendent of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools in Miami, Fla., has been named the 2008 National Superintendent of the Year. Crew was honored today at the American Association of School Administrators’ National Conference on Education in Tampa. Now in its 21st year, the National Superintendent of the Year program, co-sponsored by AASA and ARAMARK Education, celebrates the contributions and leadership of public school superintendents.

Crew, 57, is in his fourth year as superintendent of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. He has been credited with making significant changes in the learning environment in the 353,000-student Dade County system, the nation’s fourth largest school system.

“Rudy Crew has demonstrated high-quality leadership in several of our nation’s largest public school systems,” said Paul Houston, AASA executive director. “From developing innovative school improvement programs to strengthening collaboration with the local community, he has worked hard to improve learning outcomes for all children. AASA is proud to have him represent the best of the profession in 2008.”

“Having grown up with educators, I value good teaching and good learning,” said Dennis Maple, president, ARAMARK Education. “Congratulations to Rudy Crew for being recognized as a leader who provides outstanding learning environments for students and focuses on their well-being. We share his goal -- and those of all superintendents -- to give students the very best education possible.”

Crew joined Miami-Dade County Public Schools as superintendent in July 2004 after working as a consultant for the Stupski Foundation in Mill Valley, Calif. He served as chancellor of the New York City Public Schools from 1995 to 2000 and earlier as superintendent of the Tacoma, Wash., and Sacramento, Calif., systems.

He received his bachelor’s degree from Babson College and his master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Massachusetts. He published a book, Only Connect: The Way to Save Our Schools, in August 2007, in which he outlined his strategies for effective reforms in urban schools.

For the past two years, the Broad Foundation has recognized the Dade County as one of the
nation’s five most improved urban school districts. The county, which has one of the country’s most
diverse student bodies, operates 367 schools, including 89 magnet programs. The district has some
21,200 teachers, of which 875 hold national board certification, the third highest total in the nation.
The school system has an annual capital and operating budget of $6 billion.

As the 2008 National Superintendent of the Year honoree, Crew is entitled to present a $10,000
college scholarship to a student in the high school from which he graduated.

A national blue ribbon panel of educators, business leaders and government officials selected Crew
from four national finalists. The other national finalists were: Paul Johnson, superintendent of the of
Bismarck, N.D., Public Schools; James Phares, superintendent of the Marion County Schools in
Fairmont, W.V.; and Doris Voitier, superintendent of the St. Bernard Parish Public Schools in
Chalmette, La.

The four national finalists were chosen from 50 state Superintendent of the Year finalists, all of
whom represent excellence in school leadership nationwide. The annual awards program is open to
all U.S. public school superintendents as well as superintendents of American schools abroad and
Department of Defense Education Activity School superintendents who plan to continue in the
profession.

The national Superintendent of the Year finalists are measured against the following criteria:

- Leadership for learning – creativity in successfully meeting the needs of students in his or her
  school system.
- Communication – strength in both personal and organizational communication.
- Professionalism – constant improvement of administrative knowledge and skills, while
  providing professional development opportunities and motivation to others on the education
  team.
- Community involvement – active participation in local community activities and an
  understanding of regional, national and international issues.

More information on the Superintendent of the Year program and a list of the 50 state award
winners are available at http://www.aasa.org/newsroom/pressdetail.cfm?ItemNumber=9659. A
photo of Rudy Crew is available for download at http://aasa.files.cms-
plus.com/images/ConferenceDaily/2008FridayArticles/RudolphCrew300dpi2400x3000.jpg

About AASA
AASA, founded in 1865, is the professional organization for more than 13,000 educational leaders
across the United States. AASA’s mission is to support and develop effective school system leaders
who are dedicated to the highest quality public education for all children. AASA’s major focus is
standing up for public education. For more information, please visit www.aasa.org.

About ARAMARK Education
ARAMARK Education provides a complete range of food, facility, uniform and other support services
to more than 500 K-12 school districts in the U.S. It offers public and private education institutions
a family of dining and facility services including: on-site and off-site breakfast and lunch meal
programs, after-school snacks, catering, nutrition education, retail design and operations,
maintenance, custodial, grounds, energy management, construction management, and building
commissioning. For more information on ARAMARK’s K-12 food service programs, visit
www.aramarkschools.com