

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

## A New Partnership for the Preparation of Effective Urban Superintendents

# The Urban Superintendents Academy is a new cross-institutional partnership that offers a dynamic approach to urban superintendent preparation and certification.

The uniqueness of this program is that it offers opportunities for three categories of educational leaders to become involved in a network of support, mentoring, and professional development related to the challenges and opportunities facing the 21st century urban leader. To ensure that participants are fully equipped for the challenges and opportunities of urban superintendent positions, the Urban Superintendents Academy welcomes all applicants yet will focus on underrepresented groups. The two cohorts served by this program are:

**Cohort One:** 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.

**Cohort Two:** Current superintendents and administrators wishing to receive additional training and field experience in educational leadership related to urban settings.

Mentors, who will support both cohorts, will be sitting superintendents.

## What Makes this Academy Different?

- » Residency model
- » Problems of practice
- » Affinity groups
- » Mentors
- » Forward-thinking
- » Board governance relations
- » Ongoing support

### Important Information

Online applications will be accepted March 9 – May 11, 2015

7-week module  
September – May, 2015 – 16

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

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### **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 culminating 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 Superintendent in Residence, Co-Chair

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

**Deborah Keys**, Director, NSBA, Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE)

**Dawn Williams**, Department Chair  
Howard University

**Dana Bedden**  
Superintendent  
Richmond, VA

**Robert Copeland**  
Superintendent  
Neshaminy, PA

**Ken Hamilton**  
Superintendent  
Mount Vernon, NY

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

**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**  
Superintendent  
Norfolk, VA

**Gina Patterson**  
Executive Director, VSBA

**Pedro Rivera**  
Superintendent  
Lancaster, PA

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

**Greg Thornton**  
Superintendent  
Baltimore City, MD

**Bernard Taylor**  
Superintendent, East  
Baton Rouge, LA