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Superintendent Dr. Alexandra Estrella Receives Dr. Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award from AASA, The Superintendents Association

Norwalk, Conn. (Jan. 22, 2025) - Norwalk Public Schools is proud to announce Superintendent Dr. Alexandra Estrella as the 2025 recipient of the Dr. Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award from AASA, The Superintendents Association, the premier association for school system leaders and national voice for public education and district leadership on Capitol Hill.

The Dr. Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award is an annual national recognition of education leaders committed to the advancement and mentorship of women and people of color, and/or addressing social justice issues among children and adults in schools. Award winners are selected because they exemplify the qualities modeled by the late Dr. Effie Hall Jones, a school administrator, teacher, counselor and former AASA associate executive director.

“I am honored to receive this award, which truly highlights our district’s commitment to equity and opportunity. By embracing diversity and inclusion at every level, we’re not just making our schools stronger—we’re giving our students the role models and opportunities they need to succeed. Together, we’re breaking down barriers, opening doors to success, and building a brighter future for everyone,” said Dr. Alexandra Estrella.

As Superintendent of Norwalk Public Schools (NPS) since 2020, Dr. Estrella has championed educational equity, creating opportunities for students and fostering diverse leadership within the profession.

A staunch advocate for systemic change, Dr. Estrella is committed to eliminating barriers that limit student potential. Her leadership focuses on addressing disproportionalities in data and embedding equity, excellence, and inclusion across the district. In 2021, she introduced the role of Deputy Superintendent of Excellence, Equity, and Inclusion to drive these efforts. Under her guidance, the district has implemented multi-year professional learning workshops for the School Board, administrators, and staff to advance equity and inclusion.

Dr. Estrella’s dedication extends to creating opportunities for women and people of color in education leadership. Through mentorship and advocacy, she uplifts diverse voices, modeling equity and excellence for future leaders.

Her work is grounded in the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to achieve their

dreams, and her passion for equity reflects both a professional commitment and a personal mission.

Dr. Estrella will join Nettie Collins-Hart, another recipient of the 2025 Dr. Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award, to accept their awards at the AASA's 2025 National Conference on Education in New Orleans.

“These two outstanding individuals continue to break down barriers and build bridges to ensure that the field of educational leadership is richer and more accessible to a wide range of qualified educators - we honor and congratulate them,” said David R. Schuler, executive director, AASA. “Dr. Jones, a trailblazer throughout her illustrious career, would have been proud of their unselfish devotion to the students they serve and the communities in which they live.”

About AASA, The Superintendents Association: AASA, The School Superintendents Association, is the premier association for school system leaders and serves as the national voice for public education and district leadership on Capitol Hill.

A professional community of more than 10,000 educational leaders, AASA and its members are committed to providing high-quality public education to all students.

AASA (formerly the American Association of School Administrators) develops and supports school system leaders through the national exchange of ideas; access to professional learning, publications, and resources; and opportunities to champion initiatives to help transform the future of public education.