



## **NJASA Names Dr. Michael Salvatore**

### ***New Jersey 2019 Superintendent of the Year***

Dr. Michael Salvatore, Superintendent of [Long Branch Public Schools](#), was selected as New Jersey's 2019 Superintendent of the Year by the New Jersey Association of School Administrators ([NJASA](#)) and is a strong candidate for the National Superintendent of the Year Award by the American Association of School Administrators' ([AASA](#)). Michael will be formally acknowledged by the New Jersey State Board of Education at their Annual Recognition Ceremony held at the Department of Education's headquarters in Trenton on December 5.

Prior to this honor, Dr. Salvatore was nominated by his peers to represent the high-quality school leadership in Monmouth County and was later selected as one of three Regional Superintendents of the Year for New Jersey. The other honorees included the Region I winner, Dr. Michael LaSusa, Superintendent of [School District of the Chathams](#), and the Region III winner, Dr. Carol Birnbohm, Superintendent of [Lenape Regional High School District](#).

NJASA leaders introduced the Regional Superintendents of the Year to their executive committee members at the New Jersey School Boards Association ([NJSBA](#)) Workshop in Atlantic City and later acknowledged them during the general session. Thousands of school board representatives and district administrators attend the Workshop, which is co-sponsored by NJASA, the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials ([NJASBO](#)) and NJSBA.

In order to pay tribute to the outstanding educational leaders from each state, AASA will honor each state representative and select a National Superintendent of the Year at their Annual Conference held in Los Angeles, CA this February. This prestigious program, now in its 32nd year, is sponsored by First Student, VALIC, and AASA.

NJASA Executive Director Dr. Richard G. Bozza said, "Mike exemplifies the best a chief education officer can be. He is a results-oriented professional who continually strives to improve the quality of education for all students through his knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm."

In accepting this prestigious honor, Dr. Salvatore said, "I am humbled to receive this recognition and to represent the outstanding school leaders in the great state of New Jersey on a national stage. The work of my colleagues is rooted in the opportunities realized through high-quality education and ensuring that children matter most."

Dr. Salvatore continued, "I firmly believe access is the great equalizer, and by affording children access to modern technology and high-quality content, school leaders can create learning experiences far beyond the school walls."

Currently underway, he is promoting an aggressive paradigm shift in education by introducing career technical education processes to the youngest students. These career-based courses are designed to foster a unique skill-set and a pathway to future earnings. Specifically, in the early childhood centers and elementary schools, children are being exposed to the language of Code as well as the principles of engineering.

The 2019 New Jersey Superintendent of the Year was appointed Superintendent of the Long Branch Public Schools in April 2011. He later expanded his leadership role through an intergovernmental agreement with neighboring Deal Borough School District (2014-2017). Previously in the Long Branch Public Schools, he served as Assistant Superintendent, District

Administrator for Secondary Education, District Administrator for Early and Elementary Education, Principal of the Gregory Elementary School and Early Childhood Teacher of Students with Disabilities.

An NJASA member since 2011 and an AASA member from 2002, the 2019 New Jersey Superintendent of the Year is the Monmouth County Representative to the NJASA Executive Committee. He serves as the Past President of the Monmouth County Superintendents' Roundtable and has been selected as an Executive Committee Member since 2012. Each month, this group brings together educational leaders from 53 districts throughout Monmouth County to collaborate on trends, policies, legislation, and innovation impacting our children.

The 2019 New Jersey Superintendent of the Year serves as President of the Great Schools of New Jersey – an association of more than 180 districts focusing on advocacy for fair and equitable funding, as well as other important topics such as preschool expansion, immigration, equity and school security.

A prolific writer and presenter, Dr. Salvatore is often tagged to speak on various topics including, but not limited to: early childhood education; digital leadership; accountability; teacher evaluation; standardized assessment; and 21st-century leadership. He has served as a keynote speaker for NJ ASCD, Rutgers University CEFM, National Plant Management Association, Future Teachers of America and the NJ Department of Homeland Security.

When President Obama decided to improve public education policies, he confidently focused on the expansion of early childhood. As a result, Dr. Salvatore was selected, by the United States Department of Education, as a national presenter. His evocative descriptions and detailed illustrations pertaining to the importance of early childhood education were well received by officials throughout the country.