



NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

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For Immediate Release:

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Groff Named NJASA 2012 Distinguished Service Award Recipient

—A strong record of fiscal responsibility and dedication to early learning initiatives —



Left, NJASA Executive Director Dr. Richard Bozza, and *Right*, NJASA President Dr. Andrew Rinko, congratulate 2012 NJASA Distinguished Service Award Recipient Douglas B. Groff

Trenton, New Jersey, May 24, 2012 – The New Jersey Association of School Administrators (NJASA) selected Douglas B. Groff, retired Chief Education Officer of the Galloway Township Public Schools, as the 2012 NJASA Distinguished Service Award recipient.

The Distinguished Service Award is the most prestigious award conferred by NJASA upon

its members. This recognition honors an NJASA member for his/her dynamic leadership, outstanding contributions to

education, and service to the students of New Jersey. Since its inception in 1975, a total of 91 members have received this esteemed award.

Groff was presented the Award during the General Session on Tuesday, May 22, at the NJASA/NJSBA Annual Spring Conference in Atlantic City.

"NJASA is pleased to have someone of Doug Groff's stature receive this well-respected honor," notes NJASA Executive Director Richard G. Bozza. "Doug's unique background and pedagogical experience has assisted in improving educational efforts throughout New Jersey's public school systems," Bozza adds.

From his vantage point of 30 plus years experience as a school administrator, Groff states, "Programs don't change kids, relationships do." He believes relationship building – a hallmark of his educational career and one of his cornerstone themes in leading the Galloway Township Public Schools – foster a positive educational environment.

Groff comments, "Relationships are not only those between students and teachers, but the complete student support system including administrators, parents/guardians, school staff and the community.

The 2012 NJASA Distinguished Service Award recipient has been a leader in innovating the Galloway Township Public Schools, a diverse and progressive district located just outside of Atlantic City in Atlantic County, as a state model for early childhood education. He instituted a full-day kindergarten program and implemented a plan that created two dedicated kindergarten learning centers in the District.

His leadership is underscored by his dedication to fiscal responsibility and to building a solid foundation for future initiatives. While at the helm of the Galloway Township District, he spearheaded the acquisition of 19 acres of land deeded from the Pineland's Commission for a future elementary school site, and secured successful passage of a referendum to install solar panels on the roof of the District's middle school.

Groff, a proponent of the concept of shared services, also has had a long history of service with the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). As the Burlington County Superintendent of Schools, he established the first county-wide curriculum/technology consortium to maximize the content and delivery of instructional programs while reducing the program expenditures. He was instrumental, as a NJDOE Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Executive Services, in the coordination of the Department's efforts in writing the original Abbott regulations in conjunction with the Office of the New Jersey State Attorney General. In addition, he brought together several NJDOE division offices to assist in the development of the NJDOE Five-Year Strategic Plan.

The 2012 NJASA Distinguished Service Award recipient assumed the top spot as President of the Association for the 2009-2010 school year, held all the NJASA Officer positions, and served on the NJASA Executive Committee. Additionally, he was President of the Atlantic County Administrators Association.

"I'm honored to have assisted in moving New Jersey's educational initiatives forward," Groff states. He explains that education is both an ongoing goal and a process with chief education officers and school leaders serving as a community's grass-roots resource to foster the best educational program for a district.

"My personal goal has been to advance an agenda that facilitates each district chief education officer's ability to implement the slate of educational offerings that his/her community desires for his/her own students. In addition, in these challenging economic times, the goal is to stay focused on building strong educational programs in ways that make economic sense, are economically feasible for taxpayers, and help improve, not detract from, the fiscal strength of each district," Groff adds.

Groff lives with his wife, Barbara, in Linwood, New Jersey and is the proud grandfather of four very special granddaughters.

About NJASA

The New Jersey Association of School Administrators (NJASA) is an organization of chief education officers and school administrators who lead school districts in New Jersey's 21 counties. The Association's mission is to ensure a superior statewide system of education. Through ongoing professional training and education, the Association shares knowledge among its members about best practices from both educational and administrative perspectives. Its goal is to move education forward by ensuring the highest quality of instruction for all New Jersey children. The Association is located 920 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08618-5328. For more information -- PH: 609.599.2900 / Fax: 609.599.9359 / website: www.njasa.net

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