



**Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.**  
**State Superintendent of Schools**

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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Dr. Karen B. Salmon

**DATE:** March 20, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Maryland Superintendent of the Year - 2018

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**PURPOSE:**

To recognize Dr. D’Ette Devine, Superintendent, Cecil County Public Schools, on her selection as Maryland’s Superintendent of the Year – 2018.

**BACKGROUND:**

Dr. D’Ette W. Devine is in her forty-second year in public education with Cecil County Public Schools, the system where she received her own education. In 2010, she was appointed as Superintendent of Schools and was re-appointed to a second term in 2014. Dr. Devine has been a highly successful world languages teacher, high school assistant principal, high school principal, executive director, chief negotiator, and associate superintendent for administrative services prior to accepting the position of Superintendent.

Dr. Devine has been an education leader across the State of Maryland and is currently serving as President of the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland (PSSAM). She has held leadership positions in the Eastern Shore of Maryland Education Consortium, the Maryland Negotiation Service, and served as Co-Chair of the State Board’s Committee on Discipline. She was appointed to the P-20 Education Leadership Council by the Governor in 2014 where she continues to serve.

During her tenure, the graduation rate has steadily risen and with the class of 2016, broke the 90% mark for the first time in the county’s history. Moreover, the graduation rates for all subgroups have exceeded the state average under her leadership. In addition, the dropout rate has seen a steady decline from the 2010 rate of 14.91% to the all-time low of 7.25% with the class of 2017. This progress has also been seen on state assessments, as Cecil County showed the greatest gains in PARCC performance in the state for both English Language Arts and Mathematics.

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After graduating from Elkton High School, Dr. Devine earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland in College Park, and both her master's and doctoral degrees in educational leadership from the University of Delaware. Her dissertation was nominated for the George Herbert Ryden Prize in the Social Sciences.

In 2014, Dr. Devine received the Athena Women in Leadership Award in recognition of her extraordinary influence on the Cecil County community, and was recently awarded the Maryland School Safety Superintendent of the Year Award by the Maryland Center for School Safety. Last October, she was named Maryland's Superintendent of the Year, and represented our state at the national superintendents' conference in February.

**ACTION:**

Public recognition. No other action required.

Attachment

**D'ETTE WILLIAMS DEVINE, ED.D.**

144 South Shore Road  
Elkton, Maryland 21921

**EDUCATION**

University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, 1997  
Ed.D. in Educational Leadership  
Dissertation nominated for the Ryder Prize in Social Sciences

University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, 1982  
M.Ed. in Educational Leadership

University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, 1975  
B.A. in French Education

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2010- to the present    **Superintendent of Schools**, Cecil County Public Schools

2008 – 2010            **Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services**,  
Cecil County Public Schools

2004 – 2008            **Executive Director for Staff Relations**, Cecil County Public Schools

1997 - 2004            **Principal**, Elkton High School, Cecil County Public Schools

1994 - 1997            **Assistant Principal**, Perryville High School, Cecil County Public Schools

1991 - 1994            **Assistant Principal**, North East High School, Cecil County Public Schools

1976 - 1991            **World Language Teacher**, Cecil County Public Schools

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

President, Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland  
Secretary, Business & Education Partnership Advisory Council  
Member and Past President, Eastern Shore Superintendents Association  
Member, Maryland Association of School Personnel Administrators  
Member, Association of School Business Officials  
Member, Cecil County Chamber of Commerce

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

Chair, CCPS Advisory Committee  
Member, P-20 Education Leadership Council  
Member, Economic Development Commission  
Member, Susquehanna Workforce Network  
Executive Board Member, Cecil Human Services Committee