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Charter School of Educational Excellence

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Recipient of the "New York State 2010 Exemplary Reading Award"

YONKERS, NEW YORK, May 15, 2010 - The Charter School of Educational Excellence has won the very prestigious International Reading Association's 2010 ***"Exemplary Reading Program Award for New York State"***.

The Exemplary Reading Program Award recognizes outstanding reading and language arts programs and its purpose is to call the public's attention to exemplary programs in schools throughout Canada and the United States. Hundreds of schools submit applications annually but only one winning school is selected in a participating state or province. CSEE is this year's winner for New York State.

Winning this award has put CSEE on the nation's radar. With remarkably improved test scores year after year the school has gained notoriety and a growing reputation for its rigorous academic program. Today CSEE is ranked a top performing school in Yonkers. *"This award acknowledges the fine work we are doing and it is a testimony to parents that CSEE is fulfilling its promise by providing students with a challenging education", said Principal Catalina Castillo.* Upon hearing the great news about the award, Board Chairman, Eduardo LaGuerre, complimented the school's leadership and staff for another outstanding accomplishment. *"CSEE leads students by example and models virtues we are instilling in our students - - This award reinforces our belief that hard work, perseverance, and staying committed to a vision pays off",* stated LaGuerre.

"It is truly a pleasure working with this school," said Mary Cordero, Victory School's Regional Director. *"CSEE's teachers and administrators truly deserve recognition for their dedication and hard work. The families of Yonkers should take great pride in the fact that they have such a great choice in public education within their community."*

CSEE, indeed, is very proud of its achievements and having been given the distinction as a "model school" will give other schools, state-wide and internationally, the benefit of learning about CSEE's exemplary educational practices. Councilwoman, Patricia McDow praised the school, *"The Charter School of Educational Excellence is a beacon in this community. I am so proud of the work the school is doing with the children in my district. CSEE has surpassed all academic expectations and I am looking forward to more accomplishments as the school expands to 7th and 8th grade".*

In April 2010, Principal Castillo will attend the International Reading Association's 55th annual convention in Chicago, Illinois, where she will be presented the Exemplary Reading Program Award on behalf of her school.

About the Charter School of Educational Excellence

The Charter School of Educational Excellence (CSEE) is the first and continues to be the only public charter school to be approved in Westchester County. CSEE is a free public school open to all children through a random lottery admissions process. The school opened its doors in September 2005 and currently serves approximately 380 students in grades K-6. CSEE offers an extended day, art, music and foreign language program. In January 2009, CSEE received the maximum term of charter renewal, 5 years, from the New York Board of Regents.