
Charter School of Educational Excellence Is Recognized By the International Reading Association

Yonkers Charter School is One of Three Finalists for Reading Award

NEW YORK, February 15, 2010 – The Charter School of Educational Excellence (CSEE), Westchester County’s first public charter school, is among three finalists for the International Reading Association’s (IRA) prestigious Exemplary Reading Program Award. The winning school is expected to be announced next week.

“We are truly honored to receive this recognition,” said Catalina Castillo, Principal of CSEE. “The teachers and I are continually inspired by the dedication to learning that CSEE’s students demonstrate. This distinction serves as a testament to the school’s commitment of providing a quality choice in public education for the families of Yonkers and Westchester County.”

The IRA’s Exemplary Reading Program recognizes outstanding reading and language arts programs at the elementary, middle and high school level. The award calls public attention to outstanding programs throughout the United States and Canada. Every year, the IRA recognizes one school from each participating state or province and awards that school with a grant to further develop their program. The winning school’s program will serve as a model to schools and teachers.

“We are very proud of the positive results CSEE has achieved over the past several years,” said Mary Cordero, Victory Schools’ Regional Director. “The students and teachers work very hard and it is great to see them recognized by the IRA.”

About the Charter School of Educational Excellence

The Charter School of Educational Excellence (CSEE) was the first public charter school to be approved in the Yonkers City school district. CSEE is a free public school open to all children

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through a random lottery admissions process. The school opened its doors in September 2005 and currently serves approximately 350 students in grades K-6. CSEE offers an extended day, art, music and foreign language. In January 2009, CSEE received the maximum term of charter renewal, 5 years, from the New York Board of Regents.

About Victory Schools

Victory Schools is a national leader in public charter and district school management partnerships. Victory's mission is to create the finest public schools in America through partnerships with state departments of education, local boards of education, teachers, teachers unions, outstanding community groups and parents. The company is unique in its consultative approach to assisting public school districts; its strong emphasis on partnerships with all public education stakeholders; and its desire to provide the highest quality, most personalized service to the schools and districts we serve. Victory was founded in 1999 and is headquartered in New York City. This fall the company will provide service to 18 public and charter schools serving approximately 7,000 children in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago. For further information, Victory can be contacted at (212) 786-7900.

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