



For Immediate Release
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Charter School of Educational Excellence Validated by NYSED for Best Practices in Literacy

May 2010, Yonkers, NY. The Higher Education Task Force for the S³TAIR Project, New York's IDEA State Personnel Development Grant Team, has validated CSEE as an *"Effective Practice Mentor School in Literacy"*. The Higher Education Task Force conducted a site visit that concluded its validation process for CSEE on May 3, 2010. In a record breaking, immediate decision-making meeting, the Higher Education Task Force announced CSEE having become a validated *Effective Practice Mentor School in Literacy* following the site visit that same day. The team was extremely impressed with the school and how it is implementing evidence-based best practices resulting in success for students with disabilities in an inclusive environment.

"I am delighted and proud of all the recognition awards CSEE has received this year", stated Board Chairman, Eduardo LaGuerre. *"This prestigious validation by the New York State Department of Education, along with CSEE winning the 2010 Exemplary Reading Award, shows our school has had a powerful influence on educating children in this community. I congratulate Principal Castillo and her staff for this great accomplishment".*

In addition to this prestigious recognition, CSEE is now eligible to apply for mentor grants and as a model school for best practices, CSEE will have the opportunity to share their "best practices" with schools in need of mentoring in New York State.

About S³TAIR

State Personnel Development Grants (SPDG) are awarded by the United States Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs to improving outcomes for students with disabilities. Each state's grant is designed to address specific needs identified by the state, resulting in a wide range of projects and activities. New York's project is designed to improve outcomes for students with disabilities by helping educators increase skills in literacy, positive behavior intervention, and special education instruction. Through the S3TAIR Project, districts and schools that have effective, evidence based practices in these areas will mentor schools in need of assistance or intervention as they implement similar practices.