

TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

August 13, 2003

Dear New Superintendent:

The superintendency has become an increasingly complex and demanding position, requiring great skill to navigate the politics, juggle multiple issues, and chart a clear educational course. Yet, there are few professional learning opportunities to learn the superintendents and its potential for leading education in local districts, particularly for new, first time superintendents.

As part of its Superintendent Leadership Institute, Teachers College, Columbia University is launching such a professional learning experience through its new year-long, new superintendents seminar. We invite you, as a new superintendent, to join our seminar, which will consist of five Friday-Saturday sessions and a week-long summer institute. During the seminar, you and other new superintendents will explore various aspects of the superintendency and strategies for leading educational improvement, work with outstanding educators and experienced superintendents, and gain new insights and strategies. Through a combination of inquiry and reflective activities, the seminar will focus on defining leadership, working productively with diverse community interests and conflict, educational improvement, and leadership team development. Through this experience, we hope that you and other superintendents gain both a perspective and skills that will guide your work now and in the future.

Enclosed you will find a brochure about the seminar, an application form, and a draft letter of support for your school board. Applications are due October 31st, 2003 and you will be notified of your acceptance by November 20th, 2003. This will be an enriching and rewarding experience. Please call us if you have any questions about the program and the application process.

Sincerely,

Margaret Terry Orr
Associate professor and co-director, Teachers
College Superintendent Leadership Institute
And

Thomas Sobol
Christian A. Johnson Professorship for
Outstanding Practice and co-director, Teachers
College Superintendent Leadership Institute

