

Good evening- On behalf of everyone at the CT Association of Schools, I welcome you to the 2017 CAS Celebration of Distinguished Administrators.

To Carla, Lori D., Ernie, Chris, Anthony and Lorrie R.- CONGRATULATIONS! We celebrate you this evening and hope that you carry with you always our gratitude and appreciation for all you have done and continue to do to better the lives of children.

One of the definitions of the term “distinguished” is “made conspicuous by excellence”. I like that! You are here because you have been noticed. You have made a difference; and you are being called on it! You have been made conspicuous!

As for “excellence”- this evening’s event is absolutely, fundamentally about excellence- excellence in educational leadership- That’s a big thing! Achieving excellence in big things requires demonstrating certain inherent qualities and habits in little matters, so excellence is, in fact, not a label but a prevailing attitude...it is a way of being...it is a virtue.

Your excellence has been made conspicuous through your work in the very complex world of school leadership. You are both administrative directors of state educational policy and building managers; you are both advocates for school change and the protectors of bureaucratic stability. You work in the midst of ever-changing fiscal supports, school law and policy, community values, and youth culture. You are employers, supervisors, professional figureheads, and inspirational leaders. You are each a single person, in a single professional role, who acts on a daily basis as the connecting link between a large bureaucratic system and the individual daily experiences of a large number of children and adults.

Each of you, through your excellence in leadership, has demonstrated unwavering commitment to doing what is right and good for kids and for your colleagues. You have invested your time and energies above and beyond what is expected of school leaders; demands which, arguably, have never been greater. And in your efforts you have touched the hearts and engaged the minds of so many people- especially children.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Not everybody can be famous but everybody can be great, because greatness is determined by service.”

Tonight we recognize your service and celebrate your conspicuous excellence. Congratulations to you- our Distinguished School Administrators!