

CAS CELEBRATION OF DISTINGUISHED ADMINISTRATORS
October 25, 2012 – St. Clements Castle, Portland

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Connecticut Association of Schools, I am thrilled that we are here at this time to honor our six “2012 distinguished administrators,” each of whom inspires us with their accomplishments, conviction, and successes in providing leadership to their schools. Tonight, we are privileged to have with us, Mr. Stefan (Steff-AHN) Pryor, our Commissioner of Education – welcome, Mr. Pryor! I would also like to thank Associate Director, Karen Packtor, and the members of the celebration committee for delivering this outstanding program each year and for making tonight not only possible, but also an occasion that is both momentous and elegant. Earlier, we heard Mike allude to the inception of the CAS celebration committee 15 years ago which, by the way, is also a time in Connecticut when it was broadly recognized that we were experiencing a shortage of school administrators. As always, CAS answered the call of the commissioner to help alleviate this problem, and, as you know, we began offering mentoring to new and aspiring school administrators, engaging in strong and effective partnerships with graduate school programs designed to prepare administrators through the University of Connecticut UCAPP program and the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies program at Southern Connecticut State University. Understanding the cruciality of fostering growth in our ranks, CAS realized its vision to help with the preparation for, the coaching of,

and the celebration of our state's administrators. Together, we have constructed a robust network of support for school leaders – no matter where they may be on the continuum of their administrative careers. And, our work in these endeavors continues to expand today. Therefore, it is with tremendous pride that we honor our special guests here tonight and take this opportunity to celebrate learning, teaching, and leadership through our honorees - who so wonderfully grace our noble profession. Further, the Connecticut Association of Schools, its Board of Directors, its staff, and its member administrators congratulate each of you for **ensuring** that children benefit from a safe and welcoming school culture, **providing** a cohesive family-friendly learning environment, and **creating** learning communities that remain fertile ground for your teachers' personal and professional growth. You have energized your schools and, as you can see around you, your colleagues! In addition to offering congratulations on behalf of CAS, I must also express the Association's collective gratitude to you for working so diligently and creatively and thereby serving as exemplars in our increasingly complex profession. You have succeeded in unveiling the great work that takes place in our typically humble field..... but, rest assured, we shall certainly not be unsung tonight!!! Again, congratulations and let's proceed with our celebration of the excellence of our truly remarkable peers, to whom we wish every continued success!