



Dear Principal Polk-Jones,

Congratulations! Your school is one of 15 winners of the 2018 America's Best Urban Schools Award. Among the thousands of urban schools in the nation, yours is among the few that met all of our rigorous eligibility criteria. We selected your school as a winner because you demonstrated, through multiple indicators, that your school is achieving impressive academic results for every demographic group you serve. The site-visit teams had the incredibly difficult task of determining which finalist schools presented the greatest evidence of strength in four areas: curricular rigor, instructional effectiveness, relational quality, and continuous improvement efforts. The team found evidence of these strengths at your school; therefore, your school has been selected as one of the schools that will receive a Bronze, Silver, or the Gold Award at the 2018 America's Best Urban Schools Symposium.

The event will be held on October 9th and 10th at the San Diego Marriot La Jolla in San Diego, California. We will pay travel expenses and registration for you and one other educator from your school to attend the symposium. (Please see the attached packet regarding travel and registration information.) As an award winner, you are expected to present a session at the symposium. Educators from across the nation will be eager to learn more about what your school has done to ensure the academic success of your students. Also, at the symposium, your school will be recognized at our awards ceremony on October 9th. At the award ceremony, you will receive a large banner announcing that your school is a winner of the 2018 America's Best Urban Schools Award. Also, if selected as a Bronze Award winner, your school will receive a check in the amount of \$1,000. Silver Award winners will receive \$2,500 checks and Gold Award winners will receive \$5,000 checks. We will work with your district to develop media releases to inform your community about your outstanding accomplishments.

In addition to all of this, you are invited to nominate up to five of your school's students for our student speech contest, and you will have the opportunity to nominate one of your school volunteers for our school volunteer award. (Information about the speech contest and the volunteer award program is included in the attached packet.) Clearly, you can be proud of your school's designation as an America's Best Urban School Award winner. You join an elite group of 145 schools that have been recognized in past years. We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments in San Diego.

Please review the attached pages carefully to make sure that you complete each document by the due date.

Congratulations!

Joseph F. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D.
Executive Director