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For Immediate Release  
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### Gaddis Named Maryland Superintendent of the Year

OCEAN CITY (October 25, 2018)

It was announced Thursday evening that Somerset County Public Schools' Superintendent Dr. John B. Gaddis has been selected as the Maryland Superintendent of the Year. The Superintendent of the Year is chosen annually by a panel of other Maryland superintendents following an extensive application process. The winner then goes on to represent the state in the National Superintendent of the Year process, all of which is a program of AASA: The American Association of School Administrators. The announcement was made at the concluding banquet of the Maryland Negotiation Service (MNS) Conference, an affiliate of the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland (PSSAM).

"I am honored and humbled to represent PSSAM as the Maryland Superintendent of the Year," stated Dr. Gaddis. "I am blessed to be able to belong to a professional organization that has passionate, caring and committed leaders - strong leaders who believe in the value of public education and in the importance of what happens in our school systems every single day. I accept this award on behalf of our Board of Education, our leadership team, our entire Somerset County Public School System and our community because it is not an award that I won by myself. It is because of teamwork and the building of relationships that we have been able to move our county forward, and due to that work, I am standing here tonight. I truly believe there is no greater institution than public education. Throughout history, it has been fundamental to our culture, it has preserved our way of life, given unlimited opportunities to all students, and given our society a foundation from which to grow. I am honored to be a public school superintendent in Maryland and proud to say I am superintendent of the 'Small but Mighty' Somerset County Public Schools!"

Dr. Gaddis is in his 30th year in public education. Prior to becoming superintendent in Somerset County, Dr. Gaddis was Assistant Superintendent for Instruction in the Worcester County Public School System. In 2013, he was appointed as Superintendent of Schools in Somerset County and was reappointed to his second term in 2017. Throughout the years, Dr. Gaddis has been a highly successful elementary classroom teacher, an Assistant Principal, a Coordinator of Technology, a Principal and an Assistant Superintendent of Instruction. A graduate of Pocomoke High School, Dr. Gaddis earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Master's in Education, with a concentration in Administration, from Salisbury University. He earned his Doctor of Education, with a concentration

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### Dr. Richard Warren, Jr. Named 2018-19 Maryland Teacher of the Year October 12, 2018 Statewide Winner is from Somerset County

BALTIMORE (October 12, 2018)

Dr. Richard Warren, Jr., an eighth grade Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) teacher at Somerset County's Crisfield High School and Academy, tonight was named the 2018-2019 Maryland Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools, made the announcement at the 28th Annual Teacher of the Year Gala. The event attracted educators and dignitaries, such as Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, Sen. Chris Van Hollen, and former Sen. Paul Sarbanes. Richard has taught for six years, the last five at Crisfield High School and Academy. He holds three degrees from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore: a bachelor of science degree in science (2011); masters of arts in teaching (2014) and a doctorate in educational leadership (2018).

STEM education is Richard's passion. He looks to inspire, connect, and help students stretch their potential through technology and relatable learning experiences. "Teaching is so much more than content," he said. "Teaching is about reaching students where they are, connecting them to real-world experiences, and equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to lead and make a difference in life."

Governor Larry Hogan and Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford congratulated Maryland's new Teacher of the Year. Maryland's future success is directly tied to the teachers who work hard each and every day in our schools," said Governor Larry Hogan. "I congratulate Dr. Warren on this tremendous achievement and celebrate his win with the leadership, teachers, and students at Crisfield High School & Academy. Congratulations to all of the finalists, and thank you for everything you do to educate the next generation of Marylanders." "Our teachers have the ability to have a lasting impact on the lives of our children," said Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford. "Dr. Warren is known for connecting his students to the world around them, including our majestic Chesapeake Bay, which serves as the backdrop for many of his lessons. I extend my congratulations to Dr. Warren and all of the finalists on this prestigious honor."

Richard understands that Crisfield High School and Academy is a significant institution in the rural community. As such, students, parents and local residents have a deep connection to the school, and he has found ways to honor the community by connect

**(Gaddis cont.)**

in Innovation and Leadership from Wilmington University in 2005 and was awarded the prestigious Wilmington College Trustee Award for Service at commencement.

“Dr. Gaddis began his leadership role as Superintendent by immediately visiting every school, classroom and administrative office to meet and greet his staff and to convey his expectation that student achievement is and will be job one,” stated Dan Kuebler, former Board member and Vice Chairperson of the Board of Education of Somerset County. “The results of his leadership have been timely, systematic, thorough and continuing. Every Board of Education meeting has student achievement on the agenda. A systematic approach for school security is in place. Due to Dr. Gaddis’ leadership, Somerset County Public Schools is the first school system in Maryland to offer all day pre-Kindergarten classes. This essential program now accommodates yearly 90% of all four-year-old children in the county. Dr. Gaddis led our schools to a federal meals program that provides free breakfast and lunch to 100% of our student population, thus removing all stigma and insuring every student is ready to learn. He has established that both he and Somerset County Public Schools can be trusted by the stakeholders. His professional approach at assembling a highly effective 500 personnel SCPS team has been classic and replete with extraordinary professionalism.”

Deputy Superintendent of Schools Tom Davis stated, “As an elementary trained teacher, Dr. Gaddis never forgot the importance of establishing a student’s strong academic foundation. This focus drove the realignment of grades in one elementary school. This created a true early learning center where students in Pre-Kindergarten through the first grade can receive the special attention they require. With the advent of all-day Pre-Kindergarten across the system, the 2018 Maryland Kindergarten Readiness Assessment represented the fruits of this labor as 57% of our kindergarten children demonstrated readiness. This accomplishment was the fourth best in the state. Leading the way to a vision of graduating college or career-ready students, Dr. Gaddis proposed, influenced and secured the state’s and the county’s investment into the construction of a \$42 million career and technology center. This state-of-the-art facility will open September of 2019 and will offer students opportunities in the core fields, Project Lead the Way Programs such as Biomedical and Pre-Engineering, and highly marketable skills in diesel mechanics and marine engines. This facility will serve as a catalyst for the success of countless Somerset County graduates.”

Under Dr. Gaddis’ tenure, in June of 2018, the graduation rate peaked to its highest level. The school system has the largest number of students choosing to enroll in two-year, four-year or technical schools. This is enhanced by the Dual Enrollment Program and the fact students now receive free tuition for two years.

Dr. Gaddis was named as the School Official of the Year by the Maryland Food Access and Nutrition Network in July of 2015 for providing for the Community Eligibility Provision through which all students receive free breakfast and lunch. He is the Legislative Chair for PSSAM and is the Elected Commissioner for Elementary Schools Commission within Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Dr. Gaddis is a member of the Eastern Shore of Maryland Educational Consortium and is a member of the American Association of School Administrators.

Dr. Gaddis is involved in the community. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore. He serves as President of the Somers Cove Marina Commission. Dr. Gaddis is an active member of the Somerset Shelter Committee, Somerset County Opioid United Team, the Healthy Somerset Coalition and the Somerset County Local Management Board.

**(Warren cont.)**

ing students to it.

“The science that we study always connects to something relevant in their community,” he explained. “Re-learning the impact of human pollution in waterways underscores the importance of properly discarding resources to preserve local marine life. Learning about the phases of the moon and tides helps students understand the best fishing and crabbing times for local watermen. Learning about the food chain helps students to think about how local farmers protect and harvest crops. Learning about the thermal expansion of water pushes students to think about sea level rise, as well as how to prepare for local flooding. Each of these lessons provides distinct opportunities to connect to the community around us.”

Dr. Justin Hartings, president of the Maryland State Board of Education, applauded Dr. Warren on his honor.

“Student achievement in Maryland begins with the dedicated teachers who are privileged to serve our children. Richard makes a personal interest in each of his students, and is invested in their success,” said Dr. Hartings. “He represents the best of Maryland public education. The State Board congratulates Richard on this honor, and we thank him for dedicating his professional life to serving the young people of Maryland.”

Dr. Salmon said Richard has spent his years as an educator in a quest for improvement. More recently, he’s been sharing his knowledge with others. The best educators never stop learning, and Richard has been working tirelessly to get better at his craft since the day he first walked into a classroom,” Dr. Salmon said. “He’s also been mentoring beginning teachers for several years, helping them to understand classroom management, organization, lesson planning, and everything it takes to be an effective teacher. By being a mentor, he is expanding his reach.”

Selecting Dr. Warren for the award was a very difficult task for the judges. The other outstanding finalists were: Heather Carnaghan, Anne Arundel County; LaQuisha Hall, Baltimore City; Tina Thomen, Carroll County; Staci Lamb, Cecil County; Reneé Warfield, Talbot County; and Jeanine Horst, Washington County. The finalists were selected by a panel of judges from key Maryland education organizations representing principals, teachers, school boards, teacher unions, parents and higher education. Finalists were measured against a rigorous set of national criteria that include teaching philosophy and results, community involvement, knowledge of general education issues, and suggestions for professional and instructional improvement.

The 2018-2019 Maryland Teacher of the Year was announced at Martin’s West in Baltimore. The winner will receive cash awards, technology equipment, national travel opportunities, and a new Chevrolet Equinox, donated by the Maryland Automobile Dealers Association. Presenting sponsors of the Maryland Teacher of the Year Program are Comcast, the Maryland Automobile Dealers Association, McDonald’s Family of Maryland, and Northrop Grumman Corporation. Platinum sponsors are NTA Life, SMART Technologies, and Whiting-Turner Contracting Company.

Dr. Warren succeeds Joshua Carroll, a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) teacher at Anne Arundel County’s South River High School. Maryland has had a history of national success with its Teacher of the Year Program. In the last 12 years, Maryland has had five national finalists with three of them going on to become National Teachers of the Year.

The selected Maryland Teacher of the Year will go on to compete for the esteemed National Teacher of the Year Award, to be announced next April. Maryland’s Teacher of the Year will also spend the coming year as a speaker and advisor in Maryland and will be

**(Gaddis cont.)**

AASA's selection of this award is based on the following criteria:

- Leadership for Learning
- Creativity in successfully meeting the needs of students in his or her school system
- Communication
- Strength in both personal and organizational communication
- Professionalism
- Constant improvement of administrative knowledge and skills, while providing professional development opportunities and motivation to others on the educational team
- Community Involvement
- Active participation in local community activities and an understanding of regional, national and international issues

**(Warren cont.)**

honored at the White House next spring.