



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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**Austin Independent School District Superintendent Presented with the Richard R. Green Award  
in Urban Excellence**

*The Council of the Great City Schools, ARAMARK Education, and Voyager Expanded Learning  
Presents Prestigious Award to Dr. Pascal D. Forgione, Jr.*

**PHILADELPHIA – November 7, 2008** – The Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS), ARAMARK Education, and Voyager Expanded Learning are pleased to announce that Pascal D. Forgione Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent of Austin Independent School District, is the recipient of the 2008 Richard R. Green Award, the nation's highest honor for urban education leadership. Dr. Forgione, one of eleven finalists, received the award at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Conference of CGCS held in Houston, Texas, October 22-26, 2008.

Dr. Forgione received the Green Award from the Council of the Great City Schools, a coalition of the nation's largest urban public school systems; ARAMARK Education, a professional services company that provides food, facility, uniform and other support services to more than 500 K-12 school districts in the U.S.; and Voyager Expanded Learning, a company that provides reading and math development programs to school districts nationwide. Dr. Forgione was presented with a \$10,000 college scholarship to present to a high school senior of his choice in the Austin Independent School District or from his high school alma mater.

Dr. Forgione was first appointed Superintendent of the Austin Independent School District in August 1999. Over the course of his tenure as Superintendent, Dr. Forgione has overseen continuous

improvement in student academic achievement; the return to fiscal stability and a high bond rating for the district; two successful bond elections; and increased community support for Austin public schools. Dr. Forgione, who serves on the Board of Directors of Austin Partners in Education, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Austin and the Austin Symphony, has announced his intention to retire as Superintendent in June 2009. The Austin Independent School District serves 82,074 students on 110 campuses.

"ARAMARK is proud and honored to continue our support of the Richard R. Green Award and the Council of the Great City Schools," said Dennis Maple, President, ARAMARK Education. "We congratulate Dr. Forgione and all of the nominees for their dedication and commitment to our youth and for the great strides they continue to make in education."

"Voyager joins ARAMARK and the Council of the Great City Schools in congratulating Dr. Forgione and the extraordinary educators nominated for the award," said Carolyn Gettridge, Senior Vice President of Urban Initiatives for Voyager. "The scholarships that are awarded to urban students through this program perpetuate Richard Green's legacy that education opens the door to limitless opportunities."

The Richard R. Green Award in Urban Excellence is bestowed upon a past or present member district superintendent or Board of Education member in recognition of exceptional contributions to urban schools and students. Considered the nation's highest urban education honor, the award pays tribute to the memory of Richard R. Green, former Minneapolis and New York City Public Schools superintendent, who won distinction as an outstanding educator and leader.

### **About the Council of the Great City Schools**

The Council of the Great City Schools is a coalition of 66 of the nation's largest urban public school systems. Founded in 1956 and incorporated in 1961, the Council is located in Washington D.C., where it works to promote urban education through legislation, research, media relations, instruction, management, technology, and other special projects. School districts are eligible for membership in the Council of the Great City Schools if they are located in cities with populations over 250,000 and student enrollments over 35,000. School districts with general urban characteristics located in the largest city of any state are also eligible for membership regardless of size.

### **About ARAMARK Education**

ARAMARK Education provides a complete range of food, facility, uniform and other support services to more than 500 K-12 school districts in the U.S. It offers public and private education institutions a family of dining and facility services including: on-site and off-site breakfast and lunch meal programs, after-school snacks, catering, nutrition education, retail design and operations, maintenance, custodial, grounds, energy management, construction management, and building commissioning. For more information on ARAMARK's K-12 food service programs, please visit [www.aramarkschools.com](http://www.aramarkschools.com).

### **About Voyager Expanded Learning**

Voyager Expanded Learning provides core, intervention and supplemental reading programs, as well as math intervention and ongoing professional development programs, for school districts throughout the United States. Founded in 1994, Voyager has delivered extended-time reading and basic skills

intervention programs, as well as large-scale reading and math programs, to more than 1000 school districts in cities such as Buffalo, Miami, New York City, Richmond, Va., El Paso and Los Angeles, resulting in dramatically improved student performance. Voyager Expanded Learning, Inc. is a business unit of Voyager Learning Company (OTC: VLCY.PK) and based in Dallas, Texas. For more information, please visit [www.voyagerlearning.com](http://www.voyagerlearning.com) or call 1-888-399-1995.

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