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Incoming Superintendent Joel Boyd Earns Doctorate in Education from Harvard University

SANTA FE – Incoming Superintendent Joel Boyd has earned his doctorate in education from Harvard University’s Urban Superintendents Program (USP). In his dissertation titled “Career Factors which Lead to Success in Urban School District Leadership: A Cross-Case Analysis of the Prior Experiences of Traditionally and Nontraditionally Prepared Superintendents,” Boyd examined the leadership traits, methods and strategies of six successful urban superintendents who improved student achievement as urban school district leaders.

“I am thrilled to have completed my doctoral studies,” Boyd said. “At Harvard, I had the opportunity to immerse myself in the latest research on school reform with some of the top professors in the country. I am now looking forward to translating that research into practice in Santa Fe.”

Established in 1990, the Harvard Urban Superintendents Program (USP) has been recognized as the nation's premier program for preparing individuals with innovative and rigorous training to lead urban school districts. In addition to the regular doctoral coursework and a dissertation, the program includes a six-month, full-time internship with a successful large city superintendent as well as wide exposure to the best minds and practitioners in urban education throughout the country. USP graduates and students have led more than forty school districts, including Albuquerque, New Mexico; Austin, Texas; Montgomery County, Maryland; San Francisco, California; and Washington, D.C.

Deborah Jewell-Sherman, Dissertation Committee Chair and Harvard Graduate School of Education Faculty Member expressed confidence in Boyd’s ability to lead the Santa Fe Public Schools. “Joel Boyd has honed his passion for children, their learning and their future success in life by studying how leaders transform the educational landscape and then by acting with boldness, compassion and urgency to implement best practices and make a significant difference. His dissertation speaks to his intellect and ability; his work to date speaks to his leadership and commitment to equity and excellence for all learners.”

Boyd’s Dissertation Committee approved his dissertation in July 2012, and his degree will be conferred in November 2012.