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October 2, 2018

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**PUBLIC SCHOOL 28 BECOMES THE FIRST PATERSON SCHOOL TO WIN NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD BY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

*School 28 cited as an “exemplary high performing school” by the federal government*

PATERSON – Public School 28 has been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education today winning distinction as an “Exemplary High Performing” school. It is the first time a Paterson school has won a Blue Ribbon award in the 36 years the U.S. Department of Education was held the program.

“This is an amazing first for Paterson Public Schools and wonderful recognition of the dedicated work our educators are doing every day on behalf of our students at Public School 28,” said Paterson Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer. “As principal, Nancy Castro has worked with the administrators and teachers to create a true culture of learning. I congratulate everyone at School 28 for earning this tremendous honor.”

“Principal Castro and her team at School 28 have been working tirelessly to teach according to the diverse needs within their student population,” said Paterson Board of Education President Oshin Castillo. “It’s not easy to maintain high expectations of your students as well as yourself. But the educators at School 28 somehow get it done. That is why I am so proud of them for winning this national honor.”

“At Public School 28, we know it is truly a privilege to work with young minds with growing curiosities every day,” said Public School 28 Principal Nancy Castro. “We try to make the most of our teaching opportunities every day, and I know that schools throughout Paterson share the same beliefs we do. We are grateful for this honor, and we look forward to living up to what it stands for as we continue our efforts.”

Public School 28 is a Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade school that educates students with special needs in an inclusive environment, while also providing a Gifted & Talented Program that maintains a rigorous curriculum and sets high expectations for its students.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program award recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students either are achieving very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. Since 1982, the U. S. Department of Education has sought out and celebrated great American schools. The National Blue Ribbon School award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content.

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