



NEW YORK SCHOOLS INSURANCE RECIPROCAL

NYSIR News Extra

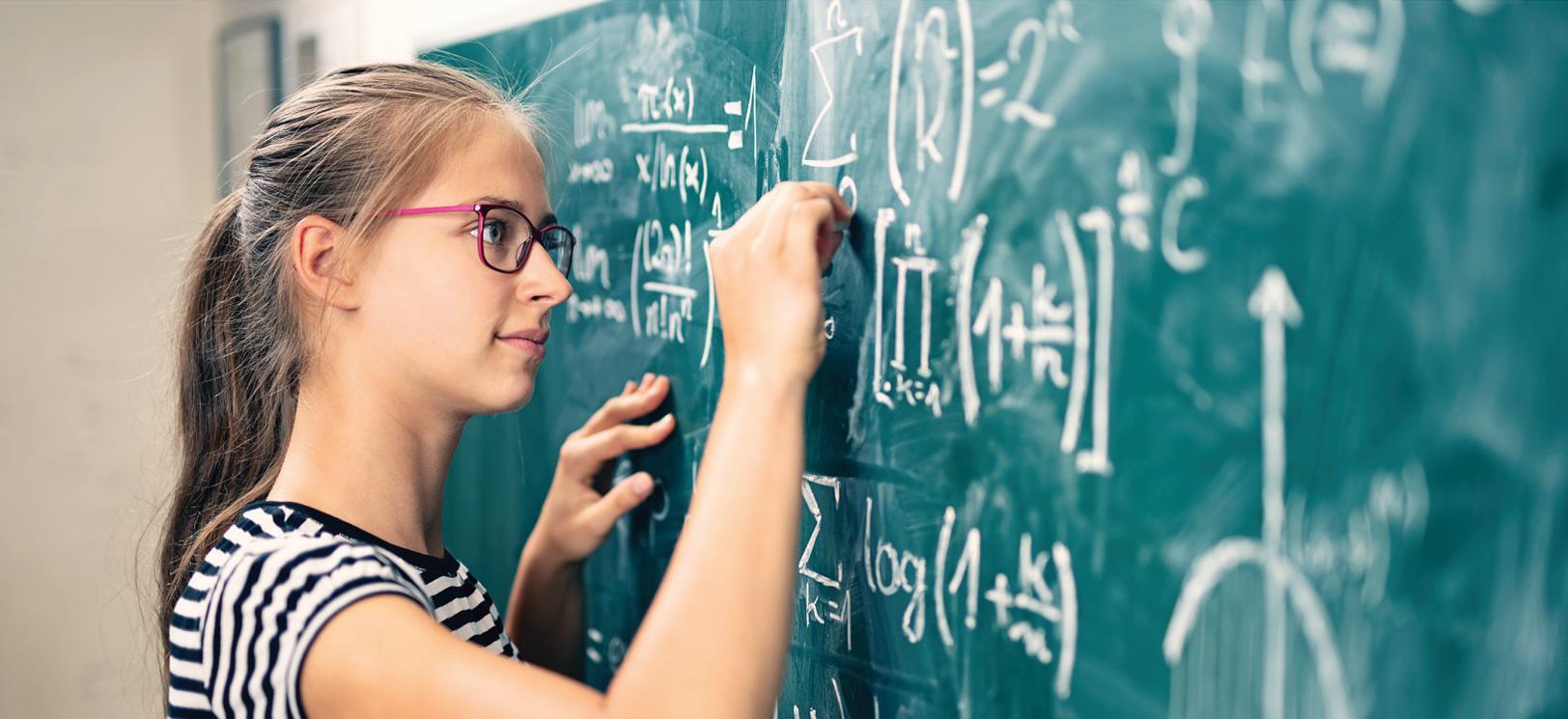
MARCH 2020



NYSIR.ORG

SPECIAL ISSUE:

Supporting Education in New York



“Show your work, please.” Heard countless times during math lessons, it’s a prompt from teachers for students to illustrate how they’ve formulated their answers. But efforts to arrive at the best solutions aren’t confined just to classrooms. 

Thoughtful and committed professionals in education-related associations are making



for association members to attend training events and conventions.

“Our partners know that employee development and training are keys to their continued success, and NYSIR is proud to be able to provide these opportunities...”

tremendous gains that continue to change the equation for students in New York State, and NYSIR bolsters them by helping to sponsor annual conferences and supplying scholarships

“Our partners know that employee development and training are keys to their continued success, and NYSIR is proud to be able to provide these opportunities to education professionals – some of whom wouldn’t be able to participate

without our support,” says NYSIR Assistant Executive Director Tom Austin. “And when the individuals and organizations benefit from increased proficiency, so too does New York’s education system as a whole.”

With this special edition of its regular newsletter, NYSIR gets a chance to show its own work by showcasing examples of its successful partnerships with education-related organizations in 2019.

NYSIR became a new co-title sponsor of the annual Rural Schools Association Conference, held in Cooperstown in July. In addition to that support, NYSIR sponsored a special first-day, pre-conference summit called “Transform Your District – Transform Your Kids,”



Principal Kelly Zimmerman to host a session called “How Does an Insurance Carrier Partner with a

School District to Enhance Community Engagement and Student Outcomes?” Additionally, NYSIR continued the tradition of sponsoring RSA student scholarships, and helped fund a student video contest.



ON THE ROAD

The NYSIR-RSA partnership also covered new ground in 2019... in a very literal way. NYSIR was the exclusive sponsor of RSA Executive Director David Little’s tour of eight New York state locations, where he presented

“The road trip was a huge success, not just for RSA, but for the districts that now can benefit from the information we were able to deliver.”

2019 NYSIR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS WERE REBECCA COOMBE, FOR PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING, AND AUSTIN NOLLEY, FOR EXTEMPORANEOUS PUBLIC SPEAKING, SHOWN WITH NYSIR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERT LULLEY AND RSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVID LITTLE. (L-R, LULLEY, COOMBE, LITTLE, NOLLEY)

which included two presentations. The first, on the community-school partnership, was led by Dr. Jason Andrews, who earned New York State Superintendent of the Year honors for his work at Windsor Central School District. The second, on school-based health care in rural New York, was delivered by Dr. John Sipple, associate professor at Cornell University.

on current issues facing rural schools. Little also gathered feedback from participants that will inform RSA’s advocacy platform and ultimately help schools continue to provide a competitive education for students.

During the conference, NYSIR Director of Risk Management Brett Carruthers joined Pine Valley Central School District

“The road trip was a huge success, not just for RSA, but for the districts that now can benefit from the information



we were able to deliver,” says Little. “NYSIR’s gesture of underwriting this tour is another demonstration of how vital a partner they are for an association like ours.”

Another first in the NYSIR-RSA relationship was the joint sponsorship,

along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, of the Northeast Region Rural Workforce Summit held in September at Cornell University. The event included a session on the impact of higher education on rural revitalization, a panel discussion featuring workforce professionals, and more.

A different kind of revitalization was on display in 2019 when NYSIR recommitted to its relationship with the New York State Council of School



The conference wrapped up with Lobby Day, an opportunity for superintendents

to meet with regional representatives.

Held in March, the event featured keynote addresses by experts in education, leadership and other related fields, in addition to group discussions and workshops.

Superintendents (NYSCOSS) by refreshing its support for Council initiatives.

Once again, NYSIR was a top sponsor for The Council’s Winter Institute and Lobby Day in Albany. Held in March, the event featured keynote addresses by experts in education, leadership and other related fields, in addition to group discussions and workshops. Members networked with each other and the state commissioner of education to discuss

key issues and best practices. NYSIR interacted with attendees at its booth, and hosted a Sunrise Café roundtable discussion that served up key information to help schools build solutions into capital projects to help them bounce back in the event of an incident of violence.

WOMEN’S INITIATIVE

For the third year in a row, NYSIR confirmed its commitment to supporting women in leadership roles by acting as title sponsor for The Council’s Women’s Initiative. The aim of the initiative is to identify women educators with leadership potential and help connect them with



FROM LEFT ARE NYSIR ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOM AUSTIN, NBT INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE LISA MCCALL AND THE COUNCIL’S JAZZ CONBOY IN COOPERSTOWN.

leadership roles. Sessions were held throughout 2019 giving attendees the chance to discuss leadership issues



facing women and network with other professionals.

FUTURE SUPERINTENDENTS ACADEMY

The state capital also was the setting for The Council's Future Superintendents Academy, once again featuring NYSIR as title sponsor. NYSIR Assistant Executive Director Tom Austin opened the August event, welcoming the new cohort of participants and highlighting NYSIR's 30-year history. The academy prepares high-level administrators to become superintendents during eight weekend sessions and a summer institute held

over a nine-month period. Important topics included governance, systems and planning, communications, human resources, financial leadership and instructional leadership.

"Year after year, NYSIR continues to play a key role in the ability of the New York State Council of School Superintendents to accomplish its mission," notes NYSCOSS Executive Director Charles Dedrick. "Great things happen for students in New York when our two organizations work in tandem on events that enhance the knowledge

base of education professionals."

SUMMER INSTITUTE

NYSIR also supported The Council's Summer Institute at Harvard University, the seventh year in a row the reciprocal served as exclusive sponsor. The two-day event offered the opportunity for superintendents and assistant superintendents to hear from Harvard faculty about student achievement,

education leadership, and developing high-quality school systems. Breakout sessions, presentations and networking events rounded out the institute.

FALL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Another Sunrise Café hosted by NYSIR ensured the NYSCOSS Fall Leadership Summit, held in Saratoga Springs in September, got a great start out of the gate. The presentation covered risk factors for school districts and BOCES programs involved in capital projects that use non-licensed insurance carriers.

NYSIR continued its signature partnership of the summit, which once again included sponsorship of the Distinguished Services Award, the highest honor granted by NYSCOSS and presented to an individual who has shown ongoing commitment to public education after retiring from

a career in the field. The 2019 recipient was Patricia Sullivan-Kriss, former superintendent of the West Hempstead Union Free School District and the Hauppauge School District. Award chairperson William Johnson, 2019-2020

NYSCOSS President Kevin McGowan and NYSCOSS Executive Director Chuck Dedrick presented the award along with a NYSIR representative.

"Great things happen for students in New York when our two organizations work in tandem on events that enhance the knowledge base of education professionals."



NYSCOSS DISTINGUISHED SERVICES AWARD WINNER PATRICIA SULLIVAN-KRISS



NYAPT

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

NYSIR distinguished itself too, by supporting scholarships for first-time attendees at the annual New York Association for Pupil Transportation/Cyr Foundation conference, held in Albany in July. Those who made a stop at the event, courtesy of NYSIR, were Suzanne Ehlers, Springville Griffith Central School District (CSD); Shannon

Fulgum, Hendrik Hudson School District; Barbara Martin, Berne Knox Westerloo CSD; Castel Stone, Jericho SD; and Theresa Ferre, Williamson CSD. The 2018 carry-over winner was Maureen Ciaci, Lindenhurst UFSD. The conference covered a wide array of emerging issues in school transportation.

ASBO

NEW YORK

NYSIR professionals kept it rolling by teaching a course called "Risk Management Essentials for School Business Officials" at the Association of School Business Officials New York headquarters in Albany. The event, held annually in two parts, helps education professionals understand risk management and how to incorporate it into school operations.

were defeated the previous year.

NYSIR also continued its sponsorship of the George A. Perry Volunteer Service Award, which recognizes a member who has demonstrated outstanding volunteer service and commitment to ASBO

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY, EDUCATION SUMMIT AND EXPO, LOCAL CHAPTER SUPPORT

NYSIR also supported ASBO as a Titanium Sponsor of its Education Summit and Expo, held in June in Saratoga. Seven summit participants from ASBO were sponsored by NYSIR through scholarships. Those eligible for the awards include new school business officials or active/institutional/SBO staff members who have not attended the conference in the past three years, or whose school budgets



FROM LEFT ARE FORMER ASBO PRESIDENT DANIELLE MCAFEE, GEORGE A. PERRY VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD WINNER TIM HILKER, AND NYSIR ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOM AUSTIN.

and its chapters. The 2019 winner was Tim Hilker, assistant superintendent for business, Saratoga Springs City SD.

NYSIR Assistant Executive Director Tom Austin also led a team of school



business leaders in delivering a special presentation on school management relations during ASBO's SBO Leadership Academy. In addition to being one of three academy sponsors, NYSIR sponsored the attendance of 18 participants.

On top of its support of ASBO New York as a whole, NYSIR also sponsored numerous risk management programs for local chapters of ASBO throughout the year. NYSIR also was a sponsor of ASBO's annual School Business Management Workshop in Saratoga

Saratoga Springs. The November event featured more than 50 classes over three days on topics relevant to school business officials. NYSIR marketing staff interacted with numerous attendees at NYSIR's booth.



SBO LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GRADUATING CLASS

NYSIR strode to the head of the class to claim its place as Valedictorian Sponsor of the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) at its 100th Annual Convention and Expo in Rochester.

After crossing the finish line at ASBO's Saratoga workshop, NYSIR strode to the head of the class to claim its place as Valedictorian Sponsor of the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) at its 100th Annual Convention and Expo in Rochester. The October event drew over 2,000 school board members, superintendents, district administrative staff and others to learn about current issues in public education. NYSIR's sponsorship of NYSSBA has lasted over two decades, and the strength of that partnership was evident to Robert S. Schneider, who recently took over as



executive director of the organization.

"Taking on my new leadership role was an honor," said Schneider. "One of the reasons I'm confident in the continued success of NYSSBA is our collaboration with NYSIR. The continued commitment to sharing their expertise with our members will help us fulfill our mission now and in the future."

REGIONAL BOARD OFFICERS TRAINING AND POLICY WORKSHOP

NYSIR also continued its sole sponsorship of NYSSBA's Board Officers Academy, which

took place in four different locations beginning in September. Titled “Effective Leadership for Successful Governance,” the event included sessions on roles of board officers, leading effective meetings, fostering a successful governance team and more. NYSIR also sponsored three sessions of NYSSBA’s 2019 Policy Workshop, titled “School Climate: Make it Work for Your Students with the Right Board Policies,” which delivered information about how school boards can strengthen student connections to the school community, conduct a

A new NYSIR sponsorship is coming in 2020. The reciprocal will support NYSSBA’s popular Summer Law Conferences, which are held at various places around the state each year.

to pertinent laws, as well as information about a wide range of other topics.

successful climate survey and implement the right policies.

Speaking of implementing the right policies, an important new NYSIR sponsorship is coming in 2020. The reciprocal will support NYSSBA’s popular Summer Law Conferences, which are held at various places around the state each year. The events provide school board members and other administrators the chance to get crucial updates on changes



The 2019 New York State Facilities Association (NYSSFA) Conference and Expo was held in Saratoga Springs last October, and NYSIR served as a Diamond-level sponsor. Support for the event included five scholarships, which were awarded to Sayville UFSD Head Custodian Danny Castellano;

Trumansburg CSD Director of Facilities Timothy Denmark; New Hartford CSD Director of Facilities III Marc Elefante; Arlington CSD Assistant Director of Facilities and Operations Joseph Mascarenhas; and Northport-East Northport UFSD District-Wide Head Custodian John Moran.



L TO R: NYSIR SENIOR RISK CONTROL SPECIALISTS SUSAN BOYLE, JIM VICTOR, AND CONNIE WALLIS SPEAK WITH A VISITOR AT THE NYSSFA CONFERENCE.

“NYSIR’s support provides these five facilities management professionals excellent training opportunities, a forum to share ideas with their peers and plenty of one-on-one interaction with vendors,” according to NYSSFA School Facilities Management Institute Program Director Mike Cocca. “All of



the recipients join me in thanking NYSIR for making that happen.”

NYSIR kept the scholarships coming for NYSSFA's December 2019 School Facilities Managers Academy, sponsoring attendance for five members. The

recipients were Canaseraga CSD Head of Buildings and Grounds Brad Giglio; Campbell-Savona CSD Director of Facilities John Machuga; Hendrick Hudson SD Director of Facilities Anthony Merlini; Niagara Wheatfield SD Director of Facilities Greg Phillips; and Midlakes CSD Director of Facilities Michael Reifsteck.



Attendance also was strong at the New York State Association of School Personnel Administrators Annual Conference in Cooperstown, held in October. NYSIR was pleased once again

to be a Silver-level sponsor for the event, which gave Assistant Executive Director Tom Austin the opportunity to speak with attendees at the NYSIR table. ■

Partnering with education-related associations across New York is an integral part of NYSIR's work, and we're glad to show it... anytime.

Smaller regional organizations can benefit from big support, too, as demonstrated by these four additional groups that received assistance from the New York Schools Insurance Reciprocal in 2019.

SCOPE Education Services provides school districts on Long Island with programs for educators, students and parents. NYSIR sponsored two events for SCOPE last year – an Awards Night held in March in Holbrook that honored service achievements from school board members, administrators, teachers, support staff and community members; and an August Annual Dinner Meeting in Oakdale that welcomed new school board members and superintendents.

The Mid-Hudson School Study Council in Newburgh also received NYSIR support for two events – its Annual Business Meeting and Awards Dinner in May, where 20 in the region's education community were honored, and the Annual Awards for Excellence in October, which recognized even more administrators, teachers, school board members and support staff.

New York State Leadership Group: NYSIR continued its sponsorship by helping the group provide professional development, educational consulting and mentoring services to education professionals in western New York.

Upstate Institute for School Boards and Staff Development: NYSIR once again underwrote the keynote speaker at the group's annual safety and security conference last fall.

