

## **FRIEND OF THE COUNCIL AWARD**

Thank you, Dr. Reidy. We are very appreciative of this recognition. We offer our sincere thanks to your board and membership for honoring NYSIR in this very kind way. We will do our very best to uphold the high expectations for continued service to NYSCOSS and the school districts represented here today and across our great state. As a member of NYSIR's board of governors and recent president, I am happy to accept this award on behalf of everyone who has contributed their time and energy to building an organization that truly exists for the betterment of New York public education.

We'd like you all to know that the districts and BOCES that make up the membership of NYSIR represent a large part of New York, in every area and in all sizes. We are just as dedicated to being a public resource for all districts as the founders envisioned nearly 25 years ago. As one of the twenty four members of the NYSIR board of governors, it has been

my privilege to work alongside other superintendents and school business officials to finance and control liability and property risk exposures we face together. The work involves developing a creative balance. On the one hand, we collect money and pay for repairs, legal defense and satisfaction of judgments. Some of the money that districts contribute to NYSIR each year is put to work in a global market of companies that spread risk and accept the ultimate uncertainties. This market responded in that time of need that we all remember when Super Storm Sandy threatened so many districts. And it was not the first time, nor will it be the last.

While financing risk is a paramount concern, the task of controlling exposures and promoting safe practices and behaviors is also vital to NYSIR. The board of governors continues every year to allocate significant financial resources toward prevention of student injuries and training for school administrators across a wide range of concerns.

NYSIR truly reflects the aspiration of its members for safe and

welcoming schools, where every student can learn and grow without any fear of injury or harm.

We are excited to be a partner with NYSCOSS in advancing professional development for Superintendents and encouraging aspiring leaders at all levels of public education. It's a natural part of NYSIR's mission to encourage and support the goals and objectives of NYSCOSS. Thank you again for recognizing NYSIR and considering the capacities of this unique organization as you move forward in your future study and work.