



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, October 19, 2015

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Mass 2020 Celebrates Massachusetts Education Innovators for Breaking Through Barriers to Create Great Schools

Moving past reform battles, educators find common ground to drive educational excellence

BOSTON, MA –Massachusetts 2020 (Mass 2020) today honored a select group of local educators with its inaugural Massachusetts Education Innovators award, recognizing them for finding common ground – in the midst of ongoing education reform battles – to implement innovations that accelerate student success. These education leaders have adopted the practices of high performing schools and districts, including expanding school time and empowering teachers to lead.

The honorees are Fall River **Superintendent Meg Mayo-Brown** and **Fall River Educators' Association (FREA) President Rebecca Cusick**; Revere **Superintendent Emeritus Paul Dakin**; and the **UP Education Network**. Thanks to these innovators, Massachusetts continues to lead the way in creating the conditions that enable educators to thrive and students to excel. .

Among their various accomplishments, Meg Mayo-Brown and FREA President Rebecca Cusick more than doubled the number of Fall River district schools progressing to Level 1 status between 2012 and 2014. Meanwhile, Superintendent Paul Dakin created the Revere Educators Leadership Board to lift up teacher voice and leadership, and collaborated with superintendents in four neighboring districts to create the Five District Partnership, a joint effort to improve instruction and academic achievement. Finally, UP Education Network is melding the best practices of district schools and charter schools to create a new restart model for urban education.

“Mass 2020 has a 10 year history of supporting districts to innovate, and today we’re proud to see the impact and to recognize these Massachusetts Education Innovators,” said Jennifer Davis, co-founder and president of Mass 2020 and the National Center on Time & Learning. “The leaders we’re honoring today embody the spirit of change and progress in education, and we hope that their example will serve to inspire others and set the standard for how we can work together to create more great schools and better serve our children.”

“While we are celebrating these three leaders today, it is important to note the pace at which innovation has spread across the state,” said Davis. “Last December Mayor Marty Walsh and Boston Teachers Union President Richard Stutman, announced a major initiative to expand learning time across Boston. Jeff Riley in Lawrence has already implemented expanded-time in his K-8 schools districtwide

with promising results. We expect to see the same out of the new Empowerment Zone in Springfield. While we still have a long way to go to close achievement and opportunity gaps, Massachusetts continues to make important strides in improving education for all students.”.”

Mass 2020 awarded the honors at an event this morning at the Omni Parker House Hotel in Boston.

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Massachusetts 2020, a division of the [National Center on Time & Learning](#) (NCTL), is dedicated to expanding learning time to improve student achievement and enable a well-rounded education. Through research, public policy, and technical assistance, NCTL supports national, state, and local initiatives that expand and improve learning time to help all children be prepared for college and career success.