



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Withrow University High School Highlighted in National Study** *Research Will Focus on Power Strategies that Create Exemplary Education*

Withrow University High School in the Cincinnati Public School District has been selected as one of three model high schools to participate in a national research study that will seek in-depth understanding of the critical factors that produced the school's excellent results.

Selection of the schools was based on their performance on the Learning Criteria to Support 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners, which identifies data in four dimensions of learning: foundation learning, learner engagement, stretch learning and personal skill development. Withrow University High School was recognized as a top school from a group of 75 high-performing schools.

"It is an outstanding honor to be recognized nationally for all the work the students, parents, staff and community members have done at Withrow University High School," said Withrow University Principal Sharon Johnson.

Added CPS Superintendent Mary Ronan: "As an urban high school with no special entrance requirements that consistently is rated as Excellent or Effective on the State Report Card, Withrow University has shown that all students can achieve at high levels. Now its strategies will be studied and shared nationwide."

Researchers will visit the school in December 2009 to analyze how the school develops and supports a culture of high expectations and student engagement. The result will be a comprehensive report on power strategies implemented at the school that led to its success.

"We are delighted that these exceptional schools will be sharing their power strategies aligned to four critical areas of education that go beyond just passing the state tests. These schools have figured out how to provide all students with a rigorous and relevant education that prepares them for postsecondary education, work, and life," said Willard R. Daggett, Chairman of the Board of the Successful Practices Network.

The Successful Practices Network, established in 2003 and located in Rexford, N.Y., is a not-for-profit organization with more than 600 member schools from 41 states. It focuses on identifying and disseminating successful practices that can assist all students in achieving higher standards. For more information please visit [www.successfulpractices.org](http://www.successfulpractices.org).

Withrow University High School was selected four years ago to be part of a Successful Practices Network grant, *Models, Networks and Policies to Support and Sustain Rigor and Relevance for ALL Students*, funded in part by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in coordination with the Council of Chief State School Officers and the International Center for Leadership in Education.



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