



East St. Louis Superintendent Arthur Culver Receives 2019 Excellence in Education Award

by Dan Brannan, Content Director
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EAST ST. LOUIS – Arthur Culver, Superintendent of East St. Louis #189, was recognized with the *Excellence in Education Award* by Cognia, formerly AdvancED, during the 2019 Midwest Region Cognia Connect Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Cognia is a non-profit continuous improvement organization that conducts rigorous, on-site reviews of a variety of educational institutions and provides resources, tools and support to education leaders across the globe to ensure all learners realize their full potential. Nominations for this award were received from a variety of sources including volunteers, Engagement Review team members, Lead Evaluators, Field Consultants, Cognia Advisory Committee members, and staff.

Regional Director for Cognia, Dr. Hopkins expressed, “that Superintendent Culver is an educator who has led East St. Louis School District #189, demonstrating unparalleled leadership during a time when systematic change was desperately needed. Facing many challenges in leadership, learning, and resource, Superintendent Culver took to task the necessary steps to improve the district’s climate and culture, reaching out to stakeholders to provide data and feedback that would help inform the improvement journey for the road ahead. Additionally, he addressed academic achievement by creating a personnel structure in leadership to establish and monitor programs and services to determine their effectiveness, making revisions as needed to ensure opportunities are enhanced for ALL students. A system of support was also established to increase high school retention, the graduation rate, the number of students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes and college, among others. Fiscal practices were established to balance the budget by assessing personnel, programs, and contracts, eliminating wasteful spending practices to achieve financial stability. After being under state control since 2011, East St. Louis School District #189 participated in a systems Engagement Review and achieved Accreditation status in 2019.”

Becky Densmore, Cognia Central Region Vice President, emphasized the importance of recognizing educators and leaders who are “making a meaningful contribution to their professions and the institutions in which they have served. Our award recipients demonstrate how they are living our mission to empower education to ensure optimal outcomes on behalf of the children we ultimately serve.”

East St. Louis School District 189 is focused on providing rigorous, high quality education and exceptional educational experiences to the nearly 6,000 students within the community. Our vision is for students to be supported physically, socially, and emotionally in a safe and nurturing environment to achieve academic success that prepares them for college, the workforce, and citizenship in the 21st century. For more information, visit www.estl189.com. Follow more great stories @estl189 on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).