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January 2019

Dear Colleague,

Over the past 15 years, the Future School Leaders Academy (FSLA) has successfully prepared nearly 200 teachers and other educators who are now leading our districts. To continue to address the region's need for high quality educational leaders, we are launching an eleventh FSLA cohort to begin in the Fall of 2019. We are asking you and other superintendents to nominate promising teachers and other educators for this unique leadership preparation opportunity.

The Future School Leaders Academy is a partnership between Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES, over 30 local school districts and Bank Street College. It grew out of a shared interest of local districts to develop a pool of highly qualified aspiring educational leaders. Through successful participation, FSLA candidates earn a School Building Leader (SBL) certification, the School District Leader (SDL) certification and a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from Bank Street College and are ready to advance quickly into leadership positions.

Past graduates speak to the quality and rigor of the program, the depth of preparation and hands on learning, the internship and the benefits of learning with a cohort of candidates from nearby districts. Superintendents and other school and district leaders speak to the benefits of having well supported leadership candidates to share current responsibilities, particularly when two or more district candidates participate together.

Dr. Anthony Conelli, Leadership Department Chair, Bank Street College, and Joan Thompson, Center for Educational Leadership, co-direct the program along with a very active advisory committee drawn from local district leaders, P/NW BOCES, Bank Street College, school boards and former FSLA student candidates. As part of the partnership, the College provides tuition support and districts are encouraged to share some of the remaining tuition costs with their nominated candidates if possible.

We encourage you to continue your district's participation and involvement in three ways. First, please nominate one or more exemplary teachers who will, through the program, become strong leaders in the region. Second, support your candidates through their building and district internship experiences. The success of FSLA is highly dependent on the quality of the students' internship experience. Your ability to support your candidates' internship through providing limited release time and by selecting the best internship supervisors to mentor and teach the candidates is critically important. Meaningful internship work on both the building and district level are integral parts of the FSLA program.

Third, please review the enclosed materials carefully and give us feedback on issues and themes that are critical for your district. The course work outlined in the packet is similar to that for the previous cohorts, but it has been updated based on feedback from both candidates, their internship supervisors, and our instructors, as well as the advisory committee.

Please share the program information and other materials with exemplary teachers you have identified as potential future school leaders. Then, please **fax the enclosed nomination form to us by Friday, January 11, 2019 at 914-248-2308**. We will then be able to contact your candidates directly to assist them in the application process.

Encourage your nominees to attend our FSLA **informational session for candidates on January 24, 2019** in the Maple Conference Room, School Services Building on the PNW BOCES campus at 4:00 PM. This will be an important opportunity for them to learn about the program and also hear about it from graduates and current candidates. We strongly encourage candidates to submit their **completed applications by March 8, 2019**.

Finally, we strongly encourage all superintendents to nominate only outstanding future school leaders to this program. Your personal recommendation, through your nomination and your letter of reference for the candidate, will carry the most influence in this process. The program is rigorous and the standards are high. We are hopeful that we will identify an equally talented group of future leaders to fill the many current and anticipated vacancies in leadership positions within our schools. Should you have any questions regarding the process or potential candidates, please do not hesitate to call or follow up by email. We very much look forward to our continued work with your district on developing quality leaders.

Sincerely,

Anthony Conelli  
Bank Street College

Joan Thompson  
Center for Educational Leadership

Lynn Allen  
Assistant Superintendent