Public Hearings
Creating an Expectation of Service

Civic Education and Service in Schools

JUNE 20, 2019

Program
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Opening Statement and Remarks
Dr. Joe Heck, Chairman

Panelists Testify

Panelist Q&A
(two rounds of questions directly from Commissioners)

Public Comments
(individuals will have two minutes to relate their comments)

Closing Statement
Dr. Joe Heck, Chairman

Commissioners

- The Honorable Dr. Joseph Heck, Chairman
- The Honorable Mark Gearan, Vice Chair for National and Public Service
- The Honorable Debra Wada, Vice Chair for Military Service
- Mr. Edward Allard III, Commissioner
- Mr. Steve Barney, Commissioner
- The Honorable Dr. Janine Davidson, Commissioner
- Mr. Avril Haines, Commissioner
- Ms. Jeanette James, Commissioner
- Mr. Alan Khazei, Commissioner
- Mr. Thomas Kilgannon, Commissioner
- Ms. Shawn Skelly, Commissioner

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Mr. Derek Black, Professor of Law, University of South Carolina School of Law

Derek Black is a tenured professor of law at the University of South Carolina School of Law, where he teaches education law and policy, constitutional law, civil rights and voting. His scholarship focuses on educational equality and fairness for disadvantaged students. He has authored two books on education law and thirty scholarly articles, including in journals such as Yale Law Journal, Stanford Law Review, NYU Law Review, Cornell Law Review, and Northwestern University Law Review. His work has been cited and relied upon several times in the federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. He provides regular media commentary and has served as an expert witness in federal and state education cases. Prior to teaching, he litigated education cases at the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. He began his career in teaching at Howard University School of Law, where he also founded and directed the Education Rights Center.

Ms. Annie Hsiao, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Discretionary Grants and Support Services in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education

Annie Hsiao is Deputy Assistant Secretary for Discretionary Grants and Support Services in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education at the US Department of Education, where she oversees programs on school choice, teacher effectiveness, innovation, research, early education, and technical assistance. She was previously the Senior Advisor to the Acting Assistant Attorney General of the Office of Justice Programs at the US Department of Justice, advising on policy, strategy, and programs. She is the former Director of Strategic Partnerships for Leadership in Education Equity and was formerly a Program Manager at the Charles Koch Foundation, and a Program Officer at the Walton Family Foundation, the leading grant-maker in K-12 education reform and parental choice. Prior to this, she was Director of Education Policy at the American Action Forum, and Director of Government and Community Relations with an appointment to the US Department of Justice, advising on policy, strategy, and programs. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Action Forum, and a Program Officer at the Walton Family Foundation, the leading grant-maker in K-12 education reform and parental choice. She manages CIRCLE’s expansive portfolio of research initiatives, tools for educators and reports that influence civic education.

Dr. Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, Director of the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), Tufts University

Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg is the director of The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), part of the Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University. CIRCLE is a nonpartisan national research institute that focuses on youth civic learning and engagement. She manages CIRCLE’s expansive portfolio of research initiatives, tools for educators and reports that influence civic education.

Mr. Alhassan Susso, 2019 New York State Teacher of the Year, International Community High School

Alhassan Susso is an educator, author and speaker who has devoted his career to transforming the lives of young people facing difficulties. He is the author of a motivational memoir, The Light of Darkness: The Story of the Griots’ Son, which traces his journey to America as a nearly blind teenager and his trials and triumphs becoming American, while maintaining his deep African roots. This book is now being used in several schools in the U.S. to teach a variety of topics including immigration, overcoming adversities, practicing compassion etc. Alhassan is the 2019 New York State Teacher of the Year. He was also named in 2017 as one of “The Top 50 Outstanding Educators in the World” by the Varkey Foundation’s Global Teacher Prize. He is a two-time recipient of Social-Emotional Learning Innovation Award for Teachers by Education First through the Rockefeller Foundation. Alhassan currently teaches Government, Economics and Personal Development at the International Community High School in New York City.