



For Immediate Release:

Contact: Mark Linabury 860.713.6525

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Ferdinand Risco, Jr. Completes Comprehensive State Board of Education Member Orientation

Arlington, VA — Ferdinand Risco, Jr., a member of the Connecticut State Board of Education and resident of New Haven, completed three days' of intensive training to help new board members become highly effective state education policymakers. The training was provided by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). Risco was also elected to NASBE's Board of Directors as one of two new member representatives. His two-year term begins in January, when he will join current NASBE president and Connecticut State Board President Allan Taylor on the NASBE board.

Risco joined state board members from 20 states and territories in sessions that covered basic boardsmanship issues such as the responsibilities of boards and their members, the sequence of policy development, and using Robert's Rules of Order, as well as more advanced subjects such as how to provide effective state leadership through board actions.

“State board members who are well-informed and empowered are critical to the successful development and application of education policy and standards at the state level,” said NASBE Executive Director Brenda Welburn. “We laud the efforts of these volunteer leaders, who give their time, energy, and expertise to their states, and we work to support them not only at the outset of their education policymaking careers, but throughout their service.”

State boards of education are the embodiment of the American tradition of citizen involvement and authority over public education. State boards are responsible for setting statewide educational standards, including high school graduation requirements, teacher professional qualifications, and establishing statewide testing programs.

The National Association of State Boards of Education represents America's state and territorial boards of education. NASBE exists to strengthen State Boards as the preeminent educational policymaking bodies for citizens and students. For more, visit <http://www.nasbe.org>.