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**Innovative Educator and Leader Dr. William R. Hite to Receive Lifelong Learning Award at WHYY President's Dinner, June 20**

**PHILADELPHIA, May 23, 2019** – WHYY will honor innovative educator and superintendent of The School District of Philadelphia Dr. William R. Hite with its Lifelong Learning Award at the 18<sup>th</sup> annual WHYY President's Dinner on **Thursday, June 20, 2019**. The event will take place at WHYY's Dorrance H. Hamilton Public Media Commons and feature an on-stage interview of Dr. Hite by Marty Moss-Coane, host and executive producer of *Radio Times*, one of the most respected weekday interview programs in the Delaware Valley. The interview will be broadcast on WHYY-TV.

"As head of the largest public school district in Pennsylvania, Dr. Hite continues to champion efforts that support the success of students and the growth and revitalization of our communities," said William J. Marrazzo, President & CEO of WHYY, Inc. "It's an honor to recognize a visionary whose leadership has ushered in an era of pioneering educational strategies that have propelled Philadelphia's schools toward excellence and enhanced our student's readiness for the future that awaits them upon graduation."

The WHYY President's Dinner is held each year at WHYY's studios on Independence Mall in Philadelphia and features a reception and dinner for hundreds of the area's leading civic, corporate, and major public media supporters. Previous recipients have included historian and filmmaker Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., former U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden, former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, news anchors Jim Lehrer and Robert MacNeil, broadcaster Cokie Roberts, Philadelphia's legendary Kenny Gamble, and Jack Bogle, founder of The Vanguard Group.

"We at WHYY have seen first-hand how devoted Dr. Hite is to using every available resource to ensure the strengthening of all elementary and secondary schools," said Fred Sutherland, Chairman of WHYY's Board of Directors. "As a longtime partner of WHYY, Dr. Hite has been a driving force that allowed WHYY to bring 34 media labs into Philadelphia Schools, paving the way for the training of over 10,000 students to date in video and audio production."

Since joining the School District in June 2012, Dr. Hite has worked to create a system of great schools in every neighborhood. Under his leadership, the School District has opened new state-of-the-art high schools, expanded successful school models, launched in-district turnarounds and redesigned schools in partnership with communities.

Dr. Hite's professional experience includes serving at every level – teacher, principal, central office administrator and Superintendent. He was previously Superintendent of Prince George's County Public Schools in Maryland where his central work focused on enhanced access and rigor to ensure college- and career-readiness. Prince George's County schools, one of the 25 largest systems in the United States, received national recognition for expanding access to Advanced Placement courses during his tenure. Dr. Hite also served as an Assistant Superintendent in Georgia's Cobb County School District. In addition, as an administrator in Henrico County, Virginia, he led Highland Springs High School to "Best Practices" honors from the state's General Assembly.



“Like public media, we at the School District strive to empower students and communities by providing access to the breadth of resources and guidance necessary to prepare young people to thrive in this ever-changing world,” said Dr. Hite. “It’s my privilege to be presented with this tribute from a vital organization that connects us to thought-provoking ideas and information through storytelling, education, and civic dialogue.”

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*For more information and to reserve tickets to the WHYY President’s Dinner, contact Nancy Stuski, WHYY Vice President of Institutional Advancement, at 215-351-1223 or [nstuski@why.org](mailto:nstuski@why.org)*

