



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
LEADING BOLDLY, WORKING TOGETHER*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**ILLINOIS CHARTER SCHOOLS NAMES
MAYOR LAWRENCE J. MORRISSEY
2013 CHARTER EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT**

Chicago, IL – Illinois Network of Charter Schools has named Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey as a recipient of the 2013 Illinois Charter School Excellence Award.

In a letter to Mayor Morrissey, Andrew Broy, President of Illinois Network of Charter Schools, wrote, “The Illinois Charter Excellence Award Program is INCS’s opportunity to showcase outstanding individuals who have demonstrated achievement, passion and innovation within the Illinois charter school community. I want to congratulate you on your efforts, passion and commitment.”

At a Chicago luncheon today as part of the INCS Statewide Charter School Conference, Morrissey accepted the award expressing gratitude to leaders of Rockford charter schools: Michael Lane, Galapagos, Dr. Barbara Forte, Legacy Academy, and Amanda Rychel, CICS-Jackson (formerly CICS-Rockford Patriots). Morrissey expressed particular thanks to local leaders Laurie Preece and John Anderson, who were instrumental in bringing charter schools to Rockford, as well as Dr. Rudy Valdez, Illinois State Charter School Commission, for their dedicated work toward the charter school movement and overall education improvement in Rockford.

“I am very honored to be among those recognized today by INCS for their leadership supporting high quality public charter schools,” said Morrissey. “As I have said since first elected in 2005, as go our schools, so goes the City of Rockford. While our struggles have

been significant, we are blessed to have local business leaders like John Anderson who first introduced me to the team at INCS and helped galvanize our local support for public charter schools. We now have three successful local charter schools who work together as the Rockford Charter School Alliance."

"The team that supported our public-private approach for improving our schools ultimately led to our current efforts with Alignment Rockford, which has brought together broad sectors of our community to support our entire Public School System. I'm proud of what we've accomplished, I'm honored by this recognition, and I look forward to our work ahead to support all of our children."

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