

U.S. Secretary of Education and Principal Michael Linnert Kick Off Educators Rising Program at Keystone Oaks High School

By Dr. Carol Sprinker West III RSS



As part of his *Fighting for Public Education 2024* back-to-school bus tour, United States Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel Cardona visited Keystone Oaks High School in the Keystone Oaks School District, Pittsburgh, on Friday, Sept. 6, to launch the new *Educators Rising* program.

Dr. Cardona was accompanied by Congressman Chris Deluzio (D-17), Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Dr. Khalid Mumin, Keystone Oaks Superintendent William Stropkaj, Keystone Oaks High School Principal, Michael Linnert, and family and family and consumer science (FCS) teacher Emily Brill, who serves as the *Educators Rising* mentor. Also in attendance were Char'Tayvious Edwards, *Educators Rising* Vice President of Service, and five Keystone Oaks students enrolled in the new Teaching Principles course.

During the event, Dr. Linnert, a proud member of the PA Principals Association, shared that one of the highlights was how genuinely interested Secretary Cardona was in the students and their program. The Secretary reflected on his own experiences as a student, teacher and school leader, expressing his passion for education and his commitment to fighting for resources and funding to support teaching and learning.

Secretary Cardona's visit reaffirmed Dr. Linnert's belief in the importance of building an educator pipeline and mentoring students who aspire to become teachers or school leaders. The event left Dr. Linnert and his staff feeling appreciated and honored to have been recognized by the highest levels of the U.S. government.

After remarks, Secretary Cardona joined students and teachers to officially launch the program with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. He then took the students on a tour of his bus, answering their questions about becoming a teacher.

Pennsylvania school principals who are interested in the *Educators Rising* program are encouraged to reach out to Principal Michael Linnert and FCS teacher, Emily Brill. The mission of *Educators Rising* is to cultivate a new generation of highly skilled educators by guiding young people from high school through college and into their teaching careers. By collaborating with aspiring educators who reflect the demographics of their communities and are passionate about serving those communities through public education, *Educators Rising* is changing the face of teaching.

The PA Principals Association commends Dr. Linnert, Mrs. Brill and the Keystone Oaks staff for their unwavering commitment not only to serving their current students but also to building a pathway for future educators who will shape the next generation of learners.

About the Author: Dr. Carol Sprinker serves as the West III Regional Service Specialist (RSS). She previously served as the NAESP Representative on the PA Principals Association Board of Directors. She retired as principal of Edgeworth Elementary School in the Quaker Valley School District.