Biography of Dr. Cheryl L. Pruitt
Superintendent of the Gary Community School Corporation

As Superintendent of Gary Community Schools, Dr. Cheryl L. Pruitt understands the importance of improving teaching and learning, creating school environments that encourage student success, keeping education modern, rigorous and relevant, and graduating every student career and college ready.

Dr. Pruitt also understands the challenges an urban public school district must face when tax collection rates are less than 50 percent, compounding deficits plague the budget, mobility is high, and education becomes the focus of government.

Yet, Dr. Pruitt has a deep passion for educating Gary Community School Corporation students. That drive comes from a simple philosophy: all students must receive an education that prepares them for their world. It's their right and our responsibility.

Because economic progress and academic achievement are inextricably linked, Dr. Pruitt believes a high quality education is not only a pathway to opportunity; it is a prerequisite for success in life. She has carried those fundamental truths throughout her career as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, assistant Superintendent, School Board member, and while serving as an educational consultant in the US Virgin Islands, New York, Illinois and Indiana, and now as Superintendent of Schools.

Dr. Pruitt has also worked for Coors Brewing Company, Roche Bio-Medical Laboratory and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

A results-oriented trailblazer, Dr. Pruitt continues to address issues that are currently facing underserved school districts. Doing what is best for students, she has increased the use of technology in the schools and throughout the community. She has expanded course offerings at the Gary Area Career Center, infused Transformation Zones into schools to improve academic performance, and increased the number of Dual Credit and Advanced Placement course offerings.

Dr. Pruitt also believes the promotion of cultural knowledge, creativity, and intercultural understanding is an essential component to providing a top quality education. As such, international partnerships have been formed that allow students and teachers to participate in international exchange programs.

Under her leadership, the Gary Community School Corporation has surpassed the state graduation average with 100 percent graduating at Wirt-Emerson Visual and Performing Arts High Ability Academy and 92 percent at West Side Leadership Academy last year. To ensure students get “to and through” college, Dr. Pruitt has moved the “finish line” by partnering with Ivy Tech Community College to adopt an Early College Program. This program gives students an opportunity to graduate with a high school diploma and an associate's degree.

IREAD test scores for Gary elementary students have also shown marked improvement during Dr. Pruitt’s tenure. Bailly Preparatory Academy has increased their passing rate by over 30 percent in the last four years. Additionally, Benjamin Banneker Achievement Center and Frankie Woods McCullough Academy for Girls achieved a 100 percent passing rate for the exam in 2015.
In addition to completing undergraduate coursework at Rust College, Dr. Pruitt earned her administrative/principal license from Indiana University. She went on to complete her doctorate degree in Instruction and Curriculum Leadership/Instructional Design and Technology at the University of Memphis, where she also received her Masters of Arts in Teaching. Her dissertation topic was Data-Driven Decision Making and the School Administrator — A Delphi Study. Dr. Pruitt completed postdoctoral coursework at Lewis University.

As Superintendent, Dr. Pruitt leads more than 6,000 students and over 1,000 employees. She has one son and one daughter. Dr. Pruitt resides in Gary.