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The 2013 Broad Prize

2013 Superintendent Biographies

Kent L. Bechler, Ph.D., Corona-Norco Unified School District Superintendent, 2007-2012

Kent L. Bechler served as superintendent of the Corona-Norco Unified School District from 2007 to 2012. He previously served as superintendent of two Southern California school systems, the Walnut Valley Unified School District for five years and the Duarte Unified School District for five years. He has 32 years of experience in education and has held positions including assistant superintendent of educational services, high school principal, assistant principal, teacher and coach. Bechler has a bachelor's degree in social work from Azusa Pacific University, a master's degree in educational administration from California State University, Los Angeles, and a Ph.D. in education from Claremont Graduate University. He is currently a consultant with Pivot Learning Partners and Leadership Associates.

Michael H. Lin, Ed.D., Corona-Norco Unified School District Superintendent

Michael H. Lin has served as superintendent of the Corona-Norco Unified School District since July 2012. Prior to his appointment, he served as the district deputy superintendent of human resources. He has 21 years of experience in public education and began his educational career as a math teacher in the Hacienda-La Puente Unified School District. He has been a high school assistant principal and coordinator, and has served as director, administrative director and assistant superintendent of human resources. Lin has a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from California Polytechnic State University, a master's degree in educational administration from California State University,

Fullerton, and a doctorate in instructional management from Pepperdine University. *For more information, please contact Evita Tapia at 951.736.5084, etapia@cnusd.k12.ca.us.*

Terry Grier, Houston Independent School District Superintendent

Terry Grier became superintendent of the Houston Independent School District in September 2009. Grier has worked for the past 28 years as a superintendent in districts in North Carolina, Texas, South Carolina, Ohio, California and Tennessee, most recently serving as superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District and as superintendent of the Guilford County Schools in Greensboro, N.C. A 40-year career educator, Grier started as a teacher and also worked as an assistant principal and high school principal. He was named 2008 North Carolina Superintendent of the Year by the North Carolina Association of School Administrators and by the North Carolina School Boards Association, and his other awards include the Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award from the American Association of School Administrators, the Distinguished Educator Award from the North Carolina Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, and the ET3 Tech Champion Award from the Congressional Black Caucus. Grier earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree in education from East Carolina University and his doctorate in education from Vanderbilt University. *For more information, please contact Jason Spencer at 713.556.6393, jspence3@houstonisd.org.*

Frank Till, Cumberland County Schools Superintendent

Frank Till has served as superintendent of Cumberland County Schools since 2009. He previously led the Boys & Girls Clubs in Broward County, Fla. from 2007 through 2009 after serving as superintendent of the Broward County Public Schools from 1999 to 2006. Till began his career as a math teacher in one of the lowest-performing middle schools in the San Diego Unified School District, where he also served as principal, associate superintendent of curriculum and instruction, area superintendent and deputy superintendent. He has also taught at San Diego State University and the University of Southern California. Till has won numerous awards including several PTA Honorary Service Awards, the Richard Green Urban Education Award from the Council of Great City Schools and the National Conference for Community and Justice Silver Medallion. Till has a bachelor's degree in mathematics and economics and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from San Diego State University. He earned his doctorate in leadership development from the University of Southern California. *For more information, please contact Patricia Hollingsworth at 910.678.2303, patriciahollingsworth@ccs.k12.nc.us.*

William Kowba, San Diego Unified School District Superintendent, 2010-2013

Bill Kowba served as superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District from June 2010 to June 2013. Prior to his appointment, he had served for nearly a year as interim superintendent. Kowba also worked as chief special projects officer, chief logistics officer, chief financial officer and interim chief administrative officer. Prior to joining San

Diego Unified, he was a career Navy Supply Corps Officer and retired at the rank of Rear Admiral. His assignments included three shipboard tours, two Navy Pentagon details, and numerous field activity experiences. Most recently, he was the first commander of the Fleet and Industrial Supply Centers. Kowba has a bachelor's degree in history from Saint Bonaventure University and a master's degree in history from the University of Richmond. He also has a master's degree in human resource management from Webster University and an M.B.A. with an emphasis in accounting and marketing from the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

Cindy Marten, San Diego Unified School District Superintendent

Cindy Marten was named superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District on July 1, 2013. She has spent 25 years as an educator, including working as an elementary school teacher and school-wide literacy specialist in the Poway Unified School District in California. She then served for 10 years as a teacher, instructional leader and principal at Central Elementary in City Heights, one of the most challenging schools in San Diego Unified. Marten is the author of "Word Crafting: Teaching Spelling and Vocabulary," and in 2012, she received the Girl Scouts San Diego 10 Coolest Women Award and was named San Diego County YMCA Principal of the Year. Marten attended San Diego Unified for elementary and middle school. She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of California, San Diego. *For more information, please contact Linda Zintz, 619.725.5568, lzintz@sandi.net.*