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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 30, 2024

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

Jersey City’s Soaring Heights Charter School Earns Coveted National Blue Ribbon Award from U.S Department of Education

JERSEY CITY, NJ — **Soaring Heights Charter School** was honored today by **Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop, Hudson County Commissioner Bill O’Dea, City Council members**, and distinguished guests from the local and state levels for earning the prestigious title of being named a **2024 National Blue Ribbon School** by the **U.S. Department of Education**. This high honor is awarded to the most academically successful schools in the country.

Soaring Heights is recognized as an Exemplary High Performing School due to the school’s NJSLA scores consistently exceeding the state average. This is attributed to their unique teacher-run management style, which promotes a calm, nurturing environment where students can thrive. Soaring Heights Charter School is the only K-8 school in Hudson County to receive both the National Blue Ribbon School Award as well as the National ESEA Distinguished School Award.

Jacqueline Quagliana is one of the five founders who started Soaring Heights Charter School 28 years ago. “I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank all of our educators and staff for making Soaring Heights consistently exceed the state average in NJ SLA, ELA, and math tests. As we celebrate this honor, let’s look ahead to the future and remain committed to the high standards that earned us this distinction as we continue to inspire greatness in every student we serve.

“This is a proud moment for Jersey City,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “We congratulate the hardworking students, educators, and staff who have worked tirelessly to achieve excellence and receive national recognition for setting such a high standard in education.”

“This recognition reflects the hard work and dedication of the students, teachers, and staff, as well as their unwavering commitment to fostering a bright future for our community,” adds **Commissioner O’Dea**. “The love and personal interest each of you has for every single student is something that I wish we could replicate in every school worldwide.”

During today's event, student **Jodi Domantay** explained what distinguishes her school. "Soaring Heights might be a small school, but that makes it special. It makes for a peaceful learning environment. All of the teachers here genuinely care about the students and their education. This honor is all thanks to the teachers and students who have shaped this school into what it is today."

Only 356 schools nationwide were selected as Blue Ribbon Schools, and Soaring Heights is one of only 11 schools in New Jersey to earn this distinction in 2024.

All media inquiries should be directed to Kim Wallace-Scalcione at KScalcione@jenj.org.