



## Principal and Teacher Effectiveness is the Focus of Statewide Conference for School Leaders

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**Trenton, NJ** - Saying New Jersey school principals have a big and important role to play in the implementation of Governor Christie's education reform agenda, acting Education Commissioner Chris Cerf welcomed more than 200 school leaders from around the state to the department's 2011 Spring Leadership Conference Wednesday. The conference was sponsored by the department's Office of Governance and Leadership Development.

"Effective school principals are crucial to achieving gains in student achievement. In the most effective schools I've experienced, principals are academic leaders who support teachers, demand high standards of achievement, maintain discipline and engage parents," acting Commissioner Cerf said. "We are empowering principals with the tools they need to lead high-performing instructional teams toward the ultimate goal of college and career readiness for their students."

The conference focused on the role of the school principal in moving the Christie Administration's teacher effectiveness agenda forward. It featured a keynote address by Benjamin Fenton, co-founder of New Leaders for New Schools, a national non-profit that attracts, prepares, and supports individuals to become the next generation of school leaders in urban public schools. You may see photos from the conference here:



Dir. of the NJDOE's Office of Governance and Leadership, Elaine Davis, acting Education Commissioner Chris Cerf and Benjamin Fenton, founder of New Leaders for New Schools



Acting Education Commissioner Chris Cerf with Dir. Elaine Davis and Maryann Capetola, Thomas Gambino, Keesha Wright and Bobbi Newman of the DOE Office of Governance and Leadership