



**U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION ARNE DUNCAN RECOGNIZES HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL
AS ONE OF THE
286 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS FOR 2013**

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan today recognized Harrison High School as one of the 286 schools in the 2013 cohort of National Blue Ribbon Schools, based on their progress in improving student academic achievement. Secretary Duncan made this year's announcement live via the Department's USTREAM channel, viewed by recognized principals, teachers, and students assembled across the country.

The Department will honor Harrison High School as part of the 236 public and 50 private schools at a recognition ceremony on Nov. 18-19 in Washington, D.C. In its 31-year history, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed this coveted award on nearly 7,500 of America's schools.

"Excellence in education matters and we should honor the schools that are leading the way to prepare students for success in college and careers," said Secretary Duncan. "National Blue Ribbon schools represent examples of education excellence, and their work reflects the belief that every child in America deserves a world-class education."

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Award honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools. Harrison High School was recognized, as an "Exemplary Improving School," which are schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds who demonstrate the most progress in improving student achievement levels as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests. To select National Blue Ribbon Schools, the Department requested nominations from the top education official in every state. The Secretary of Education invites nominated schools to submit an application, with Harrison being one of only 9 public New Jersey Schools that were selected to apply.

Harrison High School Administrators submitted their application in February, 2013 and were very optimistic that the application would meet the rigorous criteria of the Blue Ribbon Commission. Dr. James P. Doran, Superintendent of Schools stated, "This prestigious award recognizes the steadfast leadership and hard work of our entire educational community. I am so proud of our administrators, teachers, parents, and most importantly, our students for their commitment to improved academic performance."

Harrison High School Principal Mr. Ronald Shields added, "This is the proudest moment of my educational career that spans over forty years. I am ecstatic for the Town of Harrison, the Harrison School District; but most of all, for the staff and students of Harrison High School for their commitment to excellence and improvement. This honor establishes even higher expectations for our learning community in the future. The Blue Tide is now synonymous with the Blue Ribbon."

Sharing Principal Shields sentiments, School Board President Mr. James A. Fife, former Principal of the High School stated, "This is a tremendous honor for the administration, staff and students of Harrison High School, and the entire community will benefit from this Blue Ribbon designation. It is definitely a cause for celebration! On behalf of the Board of Education, I want to congratulate all involved."