



Dr. Thomas Howard Co-Authors Recently Published Education Work

NEW YORK, October 28, 2008 – Dr. Thomas Howard, Victory Schools’ Chief Academic Advisor, has co-authored an education strategy book entitled, “Raising the Bar: A Goal-Focused Approach for Data-Driven School Change,” Johns Hopkins University, 2008. *Raising the Bar* was written during Dr. Howard’s tenure at the Center for Data-Driven Reform in Education at Johns Hopkins University.

“It’s an honor to share the hard work my colleagues and I put into this strategy with a larger audience,” said Dr. Howard. “The methods that we present in [*Raising the Bar*] are proven programs that have helped many struggling schools turn their academic programs around.”

The following excerpt is taken from *Raising the Bar’s* introduction,

Raising the Bar is a goal-focused approach to increasing school performance... [*Raising the Bar*] merges a data-driven continuous-improvement process for determining school needs with investigation and adoption of research-proven programs and practices to ensure that schools get results. This fusion of data analysis and ongoing data monitoring with scientifically based practice is the key to creating a school culture that pushes for excellence every day.

Raising the Bar’s goal-focused approach is structured on four basic principles to foster change: Student-Achievement Data, Systems Theory, Goal Focused Implementation Process and Key Questions.

“We are very fortunate to have Dr. Howard on staff at Victory,” said Dr. Margaret Harrington, Chief Operating Officer of Victory Schools. “We have seen an immediate enhancement of our academic program since Dr. Howard implemented his strategies and knowledge. We look forward to experiencing a continued improvement in our schools’ academic results.”



Prior to joining Victory Schools, Dr. Howard served as Associate Director of the Center for Data-Driven Reform in Education and Director of the Success for All Foundation in Baltimore, Maryland.

About Victory Schools

Victory Schools is a national leader in public charter and district school management partnerships. Victory's mission is to create the finest public schools in America through partnerships with state departments of education, local boards of education, teachers, teachers unions, outstanding community groups and parents. The company is unique in its consultative approach to assisting public school districts; its strong emphasis on partnerships with all public education stakeholders; and its desire to provide the highest quality, most personalized service to the schools and districts we serve. Victory was founded in 1999 and is headquartered in New York City. This fall the company will provide services to 17 public and charter schools serving approximately 6,500 children in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago. For further information, Victory can be contacted at (212) 786-7900.

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