



2018 Community Leader Education Award



John Starkey

John is the visionary Principal of Lafayette International Community HS, a new educational program in one of Buffalo's oldest school buildings that is designed to serve immigrant and refugee students, as well as those who have recently arrived from Puerto Rico. This is just the second year of this program, but in its first year under John's stewardship, Lafayette saw its on-time graduation rate double from the previous year.

John is a Buffalonian, born and bred, and though he spent over a decade working in the NYC public school system, our region was never far from his heart. He followed trends in population, education, and our economic rebirth, and saw first-hand the myriad changes in the city on his frequent trips back to Buffalo. As someone who'd been an advocate for migrant workers, worked with resettled families, been a Master Principal in the New York City schools, and who specialized in empowering English Language Learners, he saw an opportunity to come back home and use his incredible skills to make a real difference in the lives of students. It's that mindset, that commitment to serving others, to helping them achieve the American dream, that makes John such a special leader.

For his love of this City and its people, and for his dedication to helping all students achieve, the NFJC proudly presents John Starkey with the 2018 Community Leader Award in Education.



"...a just community begins with me!"

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