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DeRuyter Schools Superintendent Named NYSSMA President

Westbury, NY – February 12, 2020 – NYSSMA, the New York State School Music Association, is proud to announce that Dr. David M. Brown, superintendent of the DeRuyter School District, has assumed the role of president of the nation’s largest state association for music education. For the first time in its history, NYSSMA is being led by a current school superintendent.

Throughout his thirty-one (31) years in public education, Dr. Brown served as both assistant superintendent for district operations (Chief Administration Officer), and director of fine and performing arts for the Ithaca City School District. Additional teaching and administrative roles include those in the DeRuyter, Herkimer, Pittsford, and Fayetteville-Manlius Schools, and he has served as an Adjunct Professor at Ithaca College and Mohawk Community College. DeRuyter’s first all state students were chosen twenty-eight (28) years ago during his time as a music teacher.

The Ithaca City School District was honored with several awards and recognitions under Dr. Brown’s leadership including NYSSMA’s Presidential Citation for Excellence, and as one of the Best Communities for Music Education in the nation by the North American Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation each year since 2012.

“I am honored and humbled to lead our association as president,” Dr. Brown said. “My theme, *Embracing Music Education for a Lifetime*, will focus on several issues including the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that supports every student receiving a well-rounded education that includes music.” While understanding how music impacts a person for their entire life, he will continue to look at diversity and access to all rural, urban, suburban schools and the needs of music in the “Big 5” cities that include Buffalo, Rochester, New York City, Syracuse, and Yonkers.

“By collaborating with our board of education and community, many new initiatives are happening in DeRuyter,” he said. “I believe my theme works in my presidency and my superintendency - to provide a path for all children to succeed in whatever they want to do and aspire to become.”

Active in NYSSMA for several years, he serves as an All State Vocal Adjudicator, and has served as the Syracuse-area representative to NYSSMA.

Dr. Brown has an undergraduate degree in Music Education and Theatre from Nazareth College, a Master of Music degree from Ithaca College, and an advanced degree in Public School Administration from SUNY Brockport, and was awarded his doctorate in Executive Leadership from St. John Fisher College in 2019.

He lives in Skaneateles with his wife, Melissa, and their two children, Sophia and Nicholas.

NYSSMA, the New York State School Music Association, is the largest state affiliate of the National Association for Music Education. Its mission is to advance music education across New York State for its membership and students in member school programs.

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