

Norma Figueroa-Hurwitz, Ed.D. Selected to Lead Sisulu Children's Academy

*Distinguished Educator Selected in National Search
for Principal of Sisulu Children's Academy--Harlem Public Charter School*

NEW YORK, August 15, 2003 –Victory Schools, Inc. announced today the selection of Dr. Norma Figueroa-Hurwitz as the new principal of Sisulu Children's Academy -- Harlem Public Charter School.

“By all accounts, Dr. Hurwitz is one the finest public elementary school principals in New York City,” said Victory's New York Regional Director, Beverly Garcia-Anderson. “Her distinguished track record and experience in creating high-performing schools where children excel, teachers are treated as professionals and parents participate in the learning environment has been recognized and celebrated by the education community. We are delighted to have Norma join Sisulu.”

Mrs. Figueroa-Hurwitz was formerly principal of the Munoz Luis Rivera School (P.S. 83) located in East Harlem for twenty-three years. Under Mrs. Figueroa-Hurwitz's leadership, P.S. 83 was named by the New York City Department of Education as one of the top performing New York City public elementary schools. As such, P.S. 83 is one of only 209 public schools in the city that was granted an exemption from the Department's mandated curriculum. Mrs. Figueroa-Hurwitz's former students achieved consistently high averages on New York State's English, Math and Science assessments. For example, in 2002, 77.9% of P.S. 83 students met or exceeded the New York state standards on the 4th grade math test, as compared to 42% of students in similar schools.

Mrs. Figueroa-Hurwitz has been named one of 32 Distinguished Faculty Principals in New York City and has trained more than 35 educational leaders who have become principals or supervisors. Prior to serving at PS 83, Dr. Figueroa-Hurwitz was the founder and director of the

Bilingual-Bicultural Mini School in East Harlem. In total, Mrs. Figueroa-Hurwitz has over thirty years of dedicated service and in public education in New York City.

“We are thrilled to welcome Norma to the Sisulu family and are eager to see our school benefit from her outstanding instructional leadership,” said Sisulu Children’s Academy Board of Trustees chairperson, William Allen. “She impressed the entire Board with her educational successes in East Harlem. We have high hopes for the future of Sisulu Children’s Academy under the leadership of such a dedicated and experienced educational leader.”

Dr. Figueroa-Hurwitz holds a Doctorate in Educational Administration from St. John’s University and a Masters of Science in Education from City College of NY where she also received her Bachelor of Arts degree.

About Victory Schools

Victory Schools is a national leader in public/private 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. The company currently provides services to 11 district and charter public schools serving approximately 5,700 children in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. For further information, Victory can be contacted at (212) 786-7900.

About Sisulu Children’s Academy—Harlem Public Charter School

Sisulu is a K-5 school with approximately 300 students located in Central Harlem. As New York State’s first charter school, Sisulu receives local, state and national attention. In addition to Victory Schools, Sisulu is supported by a committed parent and teacher organization, Board of Trustees and community partners. The percentage of Sisulu students who reached

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CONTACT
Kim DeLise, (212) 786-7900
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mastery on the state 4th grade ELA assessment increased 13 percentage points from 2002 to 2003. Sisulu was opened in 1999 and is currently in the final year of a five-year charter. The school hopes to renew its charter this year and continue to serve the Harlem community.