

MABL honors Bernadeia Johnson for courageous leadership

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Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) superintendent, Dr. Bernadeia Johnson, was honored on Saturday, Nov. 9, by the Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers (MABL) for her courageous leadership in eliminating the achievement gap for minority students in Minneapolis. Johnson received the 2013 Profiles in Courage Award, an annual recognition award bestowed on individuals who demonstrate courage and excellence in their leadership.

"Under Dr. Johnson's leadership, Minneapolis Public Schools has continually endeavored to improve the educational conditions with her bold leadership in eliminating the achievement gap for students of color in Minneapolis," a statement from MABL said. The association recognized Johnson's leadership and commitment to raise academic achievement for all students, noting increased high school graduation rates, greater participation among students of color in advanced courses, and decreased numbers of students suspended and days lost to instruction due to suspension.

Johnson was credited for "thinking outside the box and engaging in bold initiatives to eliminate the achievement gap in Minneapolis," noting accomplishments in early childhood education, charter collaboration compact and her [Shift](#) initiative.

"Receiving this recognition is both exciting and humbling," Johnson said. "I accepted this award on behalf of MPS' 34,000 students, all who deserve an exceptional school experience that will prepare them to be future global leaders. There is a lot of work to be done in combating the achievement gap and we must work together to accelerate outcomes."

Johnson was honored at the MABL Foundation Scholarship Gala at the Marriot Hotel City Center in Minneapolis.