



## COSSBA INAUGURAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

# Leading and Learning Together

REGISTRATION & ROOM BLOCK OPEN

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<b>URBAN BOARDS ALLIANCE DAY</b> URBAN, SUBURBAN & RURAL DISTRICTS WITH CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENTS	<b>THURSDAY, MARCH 30</b> BREAKFAST & LUNCH INCLUDED <b>EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT: \$199</b> AFTER JANUARY 28, 2023 COST: \$249
<b>CONFERENCE</b> PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS & DISTRICT LEADERS	<b>FRIDAY, MARCH 31 - SUNDAY, APRIL 2</b> <b>EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT: \$549</b> AFTER JANUARY 28, 2023 COST: \$599

## Keynote Speakers

### URBAN BOARDS ALLIANCE DAY

**DR. DONNA M. BEEGLE**



NATIONAL POVERTY EXPERT

**DR. STEVE GALLON III**



VICE CHAIR AND ELECTED DISTRICT 1 SCHOOL BOARD  
MEMBER FOR THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL



## Dr. Donna M. Beegle

### NATIONAL POVERTY EXPERT

After growing up in generational migrant-labor poverty, leaving school at 15 to get married, and having two children while continuing to cope with poverty, Donna Beegle found herself—at 25—with no husband, little education, and no job skills. With the support of people who connected her to resources and opportunities, she obtained her GED and—10 years later, her Doctorate in Educational Leadership. For 31 years, Dr. Beegle’s work and research has focused on what works to break poverty barriers to education success. Her lived experiences along with her research provide groundbreaking insights and tools for helping leaders to create responsiveness inclusive and equitable education systems that improve outcomes for students of all races who are impacted by poverty.

Dr. Beegle serves as president of Communication Across Barriers, a consulting firm dedicated to building poverty-informed communities that are armed with tools to improve outcomes. Dr. Beegle speaks, writes, and trains with students and adults in poverty, as well as leaders and professionals in all sectors who want to make a difference. She has worked in all 50 states and six countries and has received numerous awards including, Speaker of the Year for the New Mexico Bar Foundation, being selected as a Princeton Fellow, and having two community classrooms at Portland State University named in her honor. She is the author of four books/curriculum kits, including, “See Poverty...Be The Difference” and “An Action Approach for Educating Students who live in Poverty.” Dr. Beegle is also the founder of the Opportunity Community/ Opportunity Community Model which provides the foundation for a community-wide poverty-informed approach to addressing poverty barriers to education success. Recently, she was selected to co-produce the new PBS show “Opportunity Knocks,” and serve as a poverty expert for the Netflix show “Sentenced” which illuminates the millions of students and families in American who can not read or write a complete sentence. Dr. Beegle says fighting poverty is more than work to her. She knows too much to be quiet.







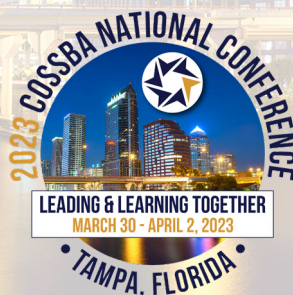
## Dr. Steve Gallon III

### VICE-CHAIR AND ELECTED DISTRICT 1 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER FOR THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL

Dr. Gallon is a lifelong educator who served as a teacher, assistant principal, elementary and high school principal, district administrator, and Superintendent of Schools. He started his career as a classroom teacher. He has taught at the elementary, middle, and senior high school levels. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in English Education from Florida A & M University in Tallahassee, Florida and became the first of his six siblings to graduate from college. Dr. Gallon earned a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and a Doctorate in Educational Administration and Supervision, both from Florida International University in Miami, Florida. He also participated in postdoctoral leadership institutes on School Reform and Management at Harvard and Stanford Universities.

Dr. Steve Gallon III rose through the ranks as a professional educator and over the next 25 years, distinguished himself in the field of education, specifically in the area of supporting improved teaching, learning, and leadership in urban educational settings. He became an assistant principal and was later appointed principal of Holmes Elementary. In his third year, after marked improvements in student outcomes and community involvement, the school was removed from the State of Florida's List of Critically Low Schools. He then became principal of Miami Northwestern Senior High School, where he would serve for seven years – earning the third longest tenure in the school's 60-year history.

In 2005, Dr. Gallon was promoted to the position of Administrative Director in School Operations/ Alternative Education in which he was charged with overseeing schools and programs for at-risk students and underperforming students. Under his leadership, there were marked improvements in student performance, attendance, suspension reductions, and student and staff satisfaction.



In 2008, Dr. Gallon became the first Black administrator to come through the ranks of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools and rise to the level of Superintendent when he was selected unanimously via a nationwide search to be the new Superintendent of Schools in New Jersey. Under his leadership, his district realized double-digit gains on all five of the indicators of State's School and District Accountability System known as QSAC – with the area of Curriculum and Instruction increasing from 8% to 68% within 24 months of his tenure.

Dr. Gallon has served as a principal in an educational management and consulting firm working with several districts, schools, and organizations in developing and implementing educational and school

turnaround strategies, as well as community-based solutions. He also served as a Board Member appointed by the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners for the Miami-Dade Economic Advisory Trust where he was charged with providing policy and implementation oversight that ensured the equitable participation of Blacks in Miami-Dade County's economic growth through advocacy and monitoring of economic conditions and economic development initiatives in Miami-Dade County.

Dr. Gallon presently serves as a Board member of the Miami Children's Initiative (MCI) which was established and funded by the Florida Legislature in 2008. The sole mission of MCI is to address the needs of the community by investing in children and by providing a unified system of support, education and care that begins before birth through college and career. A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Dr. Gallon has received numerous awards for his outstanding professional and community service. He was recognized as Region III's "Rookie Principal of the Year", Elementary School "Principal of the Year", and "Educator of the Year" by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Dr. Gallon was also the recipient of the NAACP Mary McCloud Bethune Educator's Award. The College Board also recognized Dr. Gallon as one of eight Americans featured nationally in their publication entitled "Heroes of a Different Kind" for leadership and service in education. In 2013, he was named by ICABA as its South Florida Educator of the Year.

In 2022, Dr. Steve Gallon III was awarded the Florida School Boards Association's 2022 President's Award for Unparalleled Leadership and Courage at the State and National levels during politically difficult and tumultuous times in the midst of the pandemic.

