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Dr. Brian K. Perkins is the Director of the Urban Education Leadership Program at Columbia

University Teachers College Department of Organization and Leadership. Dr. Perkins has reorganized the UELP under a dynamic new conceptual framework. He is the former Chair and Professor of Education Law and Policy at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Connecticut. As Chair, Dr. Perkins successfully led his department through the accreditation and licensure of the university's first doctoral program. Dr. Perkins is a distinguished Yale alumnus and was named a Timothy Dwight Fellow in 2004. During his studies at Yale School of Medicine, Dr. Perkins was named a Wilbur G.H. Downs International Health Fellow. He was a member of a research unit at the Yale University School of Medicine at the Child Study Center. Dr. Perkins was an instructor in the Yale University Department of Chemistry and was awarded the distinguished teaching award for instruction in Inorganic Chemistry Problems. He has served as a consultant to school districts throughout the U.S., Brazil, Israel, Thailand, the People's Republic of China, India and the Republic of South Africa. Dr. Perkins has previously served as a visiting professor at the University of Pretoria in South Africa for more than a decade. Dr. Perkins is the host of his own Internet radio show, The Perkins Platform, which is a monthly forum on education leadership topics with thousands of listeners.

Dr. Perkins was the President of the New Haven (CT) Board of Education where he served for 11 years. He also served for four years on the Board of Directors of the National School Boards Association. Dr. Perkins served two terms as national chair for CUBE: Council of Urban Boards of Education and was the chair for the National Black Caucus of School Board Members. Dr. Perkins was also the national chair of the Leadership for Healthy Communities initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Dr. Perkins currently serves as an executive leadership consultant to Escola SESC in Esino Medio in Rio de Janeiro and provides consulting services to the Municipal Secretariat of Education in Rio de Janeiro.

Dr. Perkins is the author of several published articles and book chapters and serves as the Principal Investigator and Author of *Where We Learn* (2006), *Where We Teach* (2007) and *What We Think* (2008) – the largest studies on urban school climate in the history of public education. Dr. Perkins is leading a ground-breaking study and improvement initiative of school climate in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. His forthcoming manuscript, *Improving School Climate from the Inside Out*, is under review and is scheduled for release next year. His instrument, the American School Climate Inventory, has been developed into an iPad, iPhone and Android device application and boasts worldwide sales. Dr. Perkins travels extensively in sub-Saharan Africa and lead annual delegations of educators to the region for over a decade. He is leading an effort to provide clothing and funding to the Tholakele Orphanage in the Republic of South Africa where he currently serves as an advisor. He is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated and a member of the Sigma Pi Phi Boulé. He is an ordained deacon in the Baptist church and the proud father of four beautiful daughters.

Dr. Perkins received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry from Grambling State University, a Master's Degree in Public Health from the Yale University School of Medicine and his Doctor of Education Degree from Columbia University Teachers College. He has a graduate certificate in executive coaching from the Columbia Business School. Dr. Perkins is a registered provider of continuing education for school board members by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and a nationally certified principal mentor by the National Association of Elementary School Principals.