

The RACINE MIRROR

HONORS

RUSD Superintendent Eric Gallien
as Dr. King 'Man of the Year' 2019



New Leadership at the Helm

Dr. Gallien is ready to take RUSD to the next level



While new Racine Unified Superintendent Dr. Eric Gallien officially took the helm this summer, he's not really new. Dr. Gallien joined the RUSD leadership team in 2013, one of Dr. Lolli Haws' first hires. Over the next five years, Haws and Gallien worked tirelessly together to lead large-scale transformational efforts across the District.

During this time, Gallien moved to Racine, got to know the community, RUSD employees, students and families. As he begins his sixth school year, Gallien is poised to take the reins and continue the District's momentum toward continuous improvement.

A legacy of growth and success

Dr. Gallien is committed to continuous improvement and lifelong learning. He credits passionate and caring teachers with guiding him toward success. Upon graduating from high school, he entered the service – serving as a U.S. Marine....

Gallien then spent several years as a successful entrepreneur with several of his own and family operated businesses. During this time, he began to volunteer at a local school. Here he found his calling. He recognized that he could make a difference in the lives of young people just as his teachers had done for him.

So, he embarked upon a journey of learning and growth, first earning a teaching degree, then a master's degree and final a Ph.D. and superintendent's license. During this time, he taught in several Milwaukee Public Schools. Then became a sought-after principal who successfully led reform efforts at some of the most challenging schools in MPS.

Eventually Gallien became a District-level administrator and was recruited by Racine Unified to serve as Deputy Superintendent. Since his arrival in RUSD, Gallien has led the transformation of RUSD high schools to become the Academies of Racine, he has collaborated with local law enforcement to implement the Community Policing Model to ensure safe and positive learning environments in all RUSD schools and he has helped to lead the transformation of RUSD middle schools this fall.

Relationships key to moving District forward

"I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve as RUSD's superintendent," said Dr. Gallien. "I'm proud of all we've accom-

plished under Dr. Haws' leadership these past four years and I'm eager to keep our momentum moving forward."

"We have already made so much progress and we're poised to continue improving."

Key to taking RUSD to the next level are strong relationships. Gallien is committed to building collaborative partnerships within the District – among all staff – as well as in the community.

"Essential to our ability to keep RUSD moving forward are strong relationships with our employees, our families and our community partners," says Gallien. "The Academies of Racine are thriving thanks to the more than 100 partner organizations who have stepped up to help us re-think how we educate and prepare our high school students for the future. We could not have done it alone."

"With all of the change coming to Racine, we have exciting opportunities to work together collectively to ensure our students graduate ready for college and the jobs available right here in our community."

What's next for RUSD?

This fall, RUSD has officially launched its middle school transformation effort focused on providing families more choices for their children in grades 6-8. The changes include a new Gilmore Fine Arts school serving students in kindergarten through eighth grade, an expanded Walden III at the former McKinley School building, a new Starbuck Middle International Baccalaureate School.

"We are focused on ensuring our middle school changes are implemented effectively," explains Gallien. "The next step will be for us to review our elementary schools and consider what needs we have for the long term."

With Foxconn coming to Racine, RUSD is reviewing data, studying potential impacts and developing a long-range plan for providing excellent public education opportunities into the future.

Change is on the horizon and never before has the success of our public schools been as important as it is now in Racine County.

"I'm ready for the challenge," says Gallien. "We are already moving forward, we are working together, and I know that collectively we are going to Raise Racine."



'The Purpose of Education'

by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Morehouse College Student Paper,
The Maroon Tiger, in 1947

As I engage in the so-called "bull sessions" around and about the school, I too often find that most college men have a misconception of the purpose of education. Most of the "brethren" think that education should equip them with the proper instruments of exploitation so that they can forever trample over the masses. Still others think that education should furnish them with noble ends rather than means to an end.

It seems to me that education has a two-fold function to perform in the life of man and in society: the one is utility and the other is culture. Education must enable a man to become more efficient, to achieve with increasing facility the legitimate goals of his life.

Education must also train one for quick, resolute and effective thinking. To think incisively and to think for one's self is very difficult. We are prone to let our mental life become invaded by legions of half truths, prejudices, and propaganda. At this point, I often wonder whether or not education is fulfilling its purpose. A great majority of the so-called educated people do not think logically and scientifically. Even the press, the classroom, the platform, and the pulpit in many instances do not give us objective and unbiased truths. To save man from the morass of propaganda, in my opinion, is one of the chief aims of education. Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction.

The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason, but with no morals.

The late Eugene Talmadge, in my opinion, possessed one of the better minds of Georgia, or even America. Moreover, he wore the Phi Beta Kappa key. By all measuring rods, Mr. Talmadge could think critically and intensively; yet he contends that I am an inferior being. Are those the types of men we call educated?

We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education. The complete education gives one not only power of concentration, but worthy objectives upon which to concentrate. The broad education will, therefore, transmit to one not only the accumulated knowledge of the race but also the accumulated experience of social living.

If we are not careful, our colleges will produce a group of close-minded, unscientific, illogical propagandists, consumed with immoral acts. Be careful, "brethren!" Be careful, teachers!



Dr. Eric Gallien Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Eric N. Gallien began his tenure as RUSD superintendent on July 1, 2018. Dr. Gallien brings a wealth of experience and leadership to the superintendency having previously served as Deputy Superintendent of RUSD. In this role, he directly supervised and developed RUSD's school leaders and oversaw several district-level departments to supervise and support all facets of school performance, including:

- Implementing a system of instructional accountability
- Improving student achievement
- Ensuring effective and efficient school operations
- Designing high-quality extended learning programs
- Transforming alternative education programs
- Leading secondary transformation (career academies and personalized learning), providing targeted and job-embedded leadership development and support for District and school-site leadership
- Meeting the needs of all students through a comprehensive structure of pupil services

Prior to joining RUSD, Dr. Gallien served as Regional Director of School Support in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). In MPS, he was responsible for schools in both turnaround and traditional regions in the District. He led efforts to improve outcomes in the lowest performing (turnaround) schools and supported Demonstration Schools that were focused on effective implementation of Common Core State Standards in literacy and mathematics.

Providing guidance to Innovation Schools that were launching new initiatives was also under his direction.

Dr. Gallien began his career in Milwaukee Public Schools as an educational assistant and became a teacher in both middle and high schools. He also demonstrated strong leadership as a principal at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, establishing a track record of success as a dynamic instructional leader and an administrator who firmly stands on the philosophy of students first.

Dr. Gallien earned his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis. He has two (2) Master of Arts degrees from Alverno College in Curriculum Development and Educational Leadership. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in History Education. Dr. Gallien also served in the United States Marine Corps, seeing combat in Operation Desert Storm.

Unequivocally, Dr. Gallien is committed to providing servant leadership and transforming the educational experience for all students, particularly those who are most marginalized. He serves as a mentor to several students and youth in the community and is an active member of Racine County Economic Development Corporation, United Way of Racine County Board, Racine Founders Rotary, Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity-Chapter 1123, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and the Gamma Tau Boulé Chapter of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Dr. Gallien is the proud father of two daughters and two sons as well as two granddaughters.

