

## Alfred University alumna to address Downstate graduates

6/07/12



Dr. Peggy J. Wozniak, superintendent of the Binghamton City Schools since 2002, will deliver the address at Alfred University's Downstate Commencement ceremony, to be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 16 in the Rotunda at Kingsborough Community College. Wozniak, who is a 1972 alumna of Alfred University, will receive the Presidential Order of Merit from the University in recognition of her service to her alma mater. "We believe that Peggy Wozniak will be an excellent choice for addressing the graduates for several reasons. Not only has she enjoyed a long and productive career in public education, but her career path is one that many of the graduates aspire to follow," said Charles M. Edmondson, president of Alfred University. A total of 78 degree candidates are scheduled to graduate at the ceremony. Ten will receive Master of Science - Literacy Teacher degrees; 64 are to receive Master of Science in Education-Counseling degrees; three will receive Certificates of Advanced Study in Mental Health Counseling and one will receive a Master of Public Administration degree. After graduating from Alfred University with a degree in elementary education, Wozniak earned her M.S. degree in education from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1975. After teaching in the West Seneca Central School District for seven years, she moved to California, where she worked first as a teacher, and advanced quickly to assistant principal, principal, curriculum director, and ultimately superintendent of the district. She earned her Ed.D. in Educational Management in 1994 from the University of La Verne. For her leadership of the Mammoth Unified School District in Mammoth Lakes, CA, the Association of California School Administrators named her the Superintendent of the Year for 2000. She is credited with implementing curriculum standards and assessment reform, and raising student achievement to rank in the top 10 percent statewide. In 2002 Wozniak returned to her native New York State as superintendent of the Binghamton City School District. As head of the 6,000-pupil urban district, she supervises 1,100 employees and manages a \$98.3 million budget. More importantly, she has been able to pull together the community, governing board, faculty, staff and students to develop and implement a strategic plan and vision for the district. Last year, her leadership skills were tested - and proven - when she led the district's response to the devastating floods that not only heavily damaged the largest elementary school, but displaced hundreds of students and their families. Her expertise in K-12 education was recognized in 2007 when the governor of New York appointed her to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board, created to improve the lives of New York's children by ensuring the successful implementation of the expansion of the Child Health Plus program and identifying ways to offer increased access to high quality pre-kindergarten and early learning programs. Wozniak is generous with her knowledge and time, serving as a member of the faculty for the "Transition to Superintendency Program" coordinated through the SUNY Oswego School of Education. She is a member of the

Binghamton Rotary Club; a member of the Central New York Southern Tier Regional Advisory Board for Lifetime Healthcare Companies, past president and a member of the Executive Board of the New York State Association of Small City School Districts. Alfred University presented her with a Distinguished Alumna Award from the Alumni Council in June 2008, and nominated her for the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities' Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in 2009. She serves on the Alfred University Women's Leadership Center Advisory Board; has been a speaker in the "Women of Influence" series; and volunteers her time to work with education majors through the Career Development Center.