

Arkansas State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Council Member Biography

Dr. Tony Thurman, superintendent of Cabot Public Schools, has worked in public education for more than 25 years, beginning as a school bus driver and substitute teacher for the Monticello School District. He taught in Crossett Public Schools and then moved into school administration as the principal of McGehee Elementary School in McGehee, Arkansas. Thurman moved to Cabot in 2000 and served as principal of Cabot Middle School South for three years and principal of Cabot High School for four years.

The Monticello High School graduate received a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Education from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He went on to obtain his Doctor of Education in School Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 2003

In 2007, Thurman was named superintendent of Cabot Public Schools, where he oversees a student population of over 10,300 students and about 1,450 employees. Thurman has also served as an adjunct professor for Arkansas State University since 2004. He completed the Leadership Development Program based at the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, North Carolina, and participated in the Harvard Superintendents Academy in Boston, Massachusetts. He was also a recipient of the 2013 Alumni Award for Achievement and Merit from the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Thurman has served on the Arkansas Child Health Advisory Committee and currently serves as a consultant with the Educational Research Development Institute (ERDI). He is also a representative on the Arkansas ACT Council and the Arkansas Leadership Academy Advisory Committee and serves on the board of the Arkansas Association of School Administrators (AASA). In 2014, he was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe to serve on the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board. Thurman was appointed to serve on the State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children in May 2014 by Speaker of the House Davy Carter.

Thurman was named the 2015 Arkansas Superintendent of the Year by the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators and the 2014 Administrator of the Year by the Arkansas Communications and Theatre Arts Association. He is an active member of both the Cabot Rotary Club and the Cabot Kiwanis Club and was recently named a Civitan Foundation Junior Fellow.

Thurman and his wife, Tara, have two children: Ryane and Rhett.