

The Connecticut General Assembly

House Democrats



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REP. COOK INVITED TO WHITE HOUSE CONVENING OF STATE EDUCATION LEADERS

State Representative Michelle Cook (D- Torrington) was excited to attend a White House Convening of State Education Leaders in Washington, D.C. last week. Rep. Cook met with national education leaders including acting U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Incoming Acting U.S. Secretary of Education John King to discuss issues related to state education.

“I am so grateful for the opportunity to travel to the White House and learn about state education policy from some of our nation’s top education experts. This was an invaluable learning opportunity for me and I look forward to applying that knowledge to my work on the Education Committee and to improve education in Torrington,” remarked Rep. Cook.

Rep. Cook took part in a full day of programming with other state legislators from across the country. Topics discussed include: high school redesign, tuition-free Community College, Computer Science, College Opportunity and Affordability, Early Education, FAFSA, and a College Scorecard.

“Our children only get one opportunity to get the education that they deserve. We have to be willing to try new methods and recognize that the traditional classroom setting may not benefit all students. Flexible learning is the direction education is headed and we have to start preparing for these changes so that all children succeed,” said Rep. Cook.

In addition, Rep. Cook was happy to get the opportunity to talk with state commissioners of education and national experts about ways to reduce the high school dropout rate and help the United States reclaim its spot as the #1 country for education.

At a Government Relations meeting last week, Rep. Cook discussed the importance of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields with members of Torrington’s Chamber of Commerce.

“Our Chamber of Commerce stressed the importance of a STEM education and the education convening in Washington echoed those same thoughts. Not only does a STEM education prepare students for real 21st century jobs, but there are several federal funding opportunities for schools that invest in STEM,” Rep. Cook said.

Representative Cook is a Deputy Majority Leader serving Torrington's 65th Assembly District. She is a member of the legislature's Aging, Education, Human Services, and Public Health Committees.