

# 2011 ALUMNI FELLOW

## Gerald L. Zahorchak '94g Edu

**Gerald L. Zahorchak** is the director of strategic initiatives of Allentown School District, the third-largest district in Pennsylvania. Previously, he served for five years under Governor Ed Rendell as the secretary of education for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

New to his current position, he previously served as superintendent of the Allentown School District. In that position, Zahorchak oversaw the education of more than 17,000 students and led a team of more than 2,200 faculty and staff.

Previously, Zahorchak served from 2005–10 as the secretary of education. He was responsible for the education of nearly two million children across the Commonwealth and administered a budget of more than \$9 billion annually. He also had responsibility for the Office of Higher Education and the Commonwealth libraries. Zahorchak also served as the CEO of the state Board of Education, which sets and directs policy for elementary and secondary education, career and technical education, and postsecondary/higher education in Pennsylvania.

Zahorchak has also served as the Pennsylvania's deputy secretary for elementary and secondary education as well as served in the North Star, Shanksville–Stonycreek, and Greater Johnstown school districts.

Zahorchak is a member of more than 50 civic and professional councils, boards, and other organizations. He has received numerous honors and awards including the Distinguished Alumni Award from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) and honorary doctor of laws degrees at both IUP and the Philadelphia School of Osteopathic Medicine. He was the recipient of the President's Award for Distinguished Alumnus in Education at St. Francis University and is in the St. Francis Athletic Hall of Fame.

A life member of the Penn State Alumni Association, he lives in Johnstown, Pa.

