

## **George Roesser**

### **Department of Education and Human Services**

Dr. Roesser has a long history as a principal of change. After working in an affluent suburb of Philadelphia, he rejected the politics of the central office and returned to his training ground and first love: inner city schools in crisis. He considers his experiences in Philadelphia's toughest neighborhoods a blessing. After receiving his doctorate from Temple university, Dr. Roesser began teaching in the evening at Gwynedd Mercy College and researching the impact of teacher expectations on student achievement. Building on the research of Drs. Martin Maehr and Carole Midgely, he has explored the psychological environment of the classroom and its relationship to a teacher's focus on either student ability or student effort. He has used this research to develop a unique perspective on change.

After 32 years in Philadelphia, Dr. Roesser became the director of Lehigh University's federally funded Urban Leadership Program. He has presented to national and international audiences, but if you ask him what he does best, he'll answer "I'm a teacher".