



Eleventh Annual Celebrating Leadership in Education Awards Ceremony

Honoring the:

- New Hampshire Blue Ribbon Schools
- New Hampshire Recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching
New Hampshire Milken Educator
- New Hampshire Teacher of the Year
Semi-Finalists, Finalists
and the
New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

December 11, 2012

Every day a New Hampshire teacher makes a difference in the life of a child. Every year the NH Department of Education honors outstanding educators who make their communities, profession, and the world a better place.

Program

Welcome Reception

Emcee – Chandler Baker, Senior
Hillsboro-Deering High School

Welcome – Cindy Chagnon
NH State Board of Education

Remarks by Bethany Bernasconi
2012 NH Teacher of the Year

Dinner

Remarks by Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

NH Blue Ribbon Schools

NH Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and
Science Teaching

Milken Educator Award

SMART Technologies
Teaching Excellence Award

Remarks by Jean-Marie Beauchemin
Hannaford Supermarkets

NH Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists,
Finalists, and Teacher of the Year

Remarks by Heidi Welch
2013 NH Teacher of the Year

Close

Message from Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D. New Hampshire's Commissioner of Education

Tonight, at the eleventh Annual Celebrating Leadership in Education Awards Ceremony, we honor educators who are working to provide a quality education to each student in New Hampshire. The Department of Education would like to applaud the outstanding achievements of these recipients.

These educational awards programs celebrate all that these outstanding individuals represent and honors their commitment to education. Honoring these educators is an exceptional way to celebrate the many outstanding and dedicated people teaching in New Hampshire schools. We are proud to be able to recognize their superior ability to inspire students with a love of learning, their excellent teaching and best practices, their professional leadership, their engagement with families and the community, and their commitment to their profession and students.

Promotion of educator recognition awards goes a long way towards keeping New Hampshire's teachers engaged and excited about education. Properly guided, awards programs can reach out to stakeholders and strengthen positive messages about the teaching profession. By recognizing the importance of outstanding educators we hope to encourage more people to consider a career in education and retain talented people to the challenges and adventures of teaching. Nothing touches more lives, or gives more promise to the future than education.

New Hampshire's goal is to improve teaching and learning environments so that all schools promote rigor, relevance, and relationships throughout the learning process. If students are to succeed, they must be inspired to believe in themselves. With appropriate support, students are able to be actively engaged in their learning, and can begin to see the connection between what they learn today and who they want to become tomorrow.

The real stories here are the teachers; they are the true heroes that focus on our state's future. These educators recognize the critical connection between successful students and educator excellence, and give their time and ideas to improve our educational system. We are proud to acknowledge the vision and dedication that these New Hampshire educators bring to their profession. Each one of these outstanding individuals has made an impact on the lives of their students and the profession of teaching.

Bethany Bernasconi

2012 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

Bethany Bernasconi has been teaching at Windham High School since it opened four years ago. She has a strong passion for students, brings excitement to the classroom, and the ability to reach every student. She possesses boundless commitment to support and guide the successes of her students and colleagues. Bethany is a trail guide and translator; helping students to navigate a journey of self-discovery and of the world. She strives to know her students because she feels that only when she understands the whole child can she help them to achieve their dreams and goals, only then can she hope to create for them a safe environment where meaningful learning can take place. Her professional and personal standards are an inspiration. For the past year she has served as an ambassador and leader for all the excellent teachers across New Hampshire. Tonight she will tell you about her experiences.

Blue Ribbon Schools Program

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either high performing or have improved student achievement to high levels, especially among disadvantaged students. Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals.

The US Secretary of Education sends a letter of invitation to each state's Chief State School Officer/Commissioner requesting that the State department send the names of a designated number of schools in the state that meet the criteria for recognition. Based on state data, the Commissioner certifies that the submitted schools meet one of two performance categories. The first category is "Exemplary High Performing," in which schools are recognized among their state's highest performing schools, as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests. The second category is "Exemplary Improving," in which schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds demonstrate the most progress in improving student achievement levels as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests.

Canterbury Elementary School and Memorial School in Bedford were chosen as "Exemplary High Performing" schools and Lisbon Regional Middle School was chosen as an "Exemplary Improving" school.

About the Recipients

Canterbury Elementary School

Mary Morrison, Principal

Canterbury Elementary School strives to create a respectful learning environment that offers the community diverse educational opportunities to develop lifelong learners and critical thinkers so that students will have the knowledge and skills to become responsible and productive citizens who will achieve individual success and contribute to their local and global society. They believe a child's education is a team effort that requires the dedicated efforts of staff, students, parents and the community. The staff of CES recognizes each child as a unique individual. They strive to provide each student with the opportunities to learn, develop, and succeed to his or her fullest capacity. Canterbury Elementary goals are that through quality instruction and curriculum Canterbury students will master skills that are basic to life, develop responsible attitudes, develop a sense of self-respect, respect for those around them and display continuous academic and social growth.

Lisbon Regional Middle School **Stephen Sexton, Principal**

Lisbon Regional Middle School (LRMS) is a small, rural school located in the White Mountains of Northern New Hampshire. This small sized and total K-12 configuration promote a family atmosphere in which everyone supports one another, providing the staff the opportunity for a great deal of vertical articulation. Teachers have the opportunity to align curriculum throughout grades K-12 to provide a smooth transition for their students as they move through Lisbon's system. Their size also enables them to personalize learning. Students do not fall between the cracks; they know their children and closely track their behaviors and grades. They hold intervention team meetings weekly and parent meetings whenever any individual student's grades fall or behavior is questionable. Their efforts provide them the ability to match appropriate interventions with any deficiencies. The expected result is reducing or eliminating the gap between the entire population and their subgroups of students. One accomplishment about which they are most excited is how successful they have been at moving their students out of the lowest level on the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). This upward movement adds to their already impressive percentage of students performing at the proficient level or above on the NECAPs.

Memorial Elementary School **Pamela Ilg, Principal**

Memorial School in Bedford serves 530 pre-school through fourth grade students. The Bedford community places a high degree of importance on education. Parents and community members have high expectations for student achievement and show strong support for the school system. Memorial School embraces the district mission: "To develop a community of learners who are intellectually curious, resourceful, and respectful of self and others." Academic achievement, through constantly improving standards, is the highest priority. One of Memorial's strengths is that the students believe that they are writers, scientists, readers, mathematicians, artists, musicians, athletes, and leaders. Students are excited about learning new things and persist in working through challenging tasks. The school culture, a rigorous curriculum, excellent instruction, and strong parent involvement all contribute to student success. Strong leadership, collaboration and teamwork are integral to success at Memorial School. Innovation as well as implementation of best practices contribute to Memorial School's ability to make annual yearly progress (AYP) and for their disaggregated groups of students to consistently perform above the state average based on the NECAP test scores. Memorial celebrates its students' passion for learning and continued high levels of performance.

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

The PAEMST is administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on behalf of the White House. Established by Congress in 1983, the Presidential awards are the Nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science. The Awards recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession as well as acknowledge educators who are models in both their classrooms and in their communities. In addition this award provides positive examples for pupils and peers alike.

The teachers receiving these awards are recognized for greatly improving their students' understanding in science and mathematics, for exemplary teaching, and for demonstrating educational goals that help them maintain positions of professional leadership. The goal of the program is to encourage highly capable individuals to enter and remain in the teaching field.

The competition alternates each year between teachers of grades K-6 and grades 7-12. After an initial selection process at the State level, a national panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators recommends teachers to receive a national PAEMST. Winners

at the national level receive a \$10,000 award from NSF, as well as a trip for two to Washington, D.C., for a week of celebratory events and professional development activities. National winners are usually announced in the Spring.

About the NH Recipient – Science

Holly Doe

School: Pelham Elementary

Teaching Experience: 16 Years

Holly Doe has taught in a fourth grade self-contained classroom, a technology lab and most recently as a first through fifth grade enrichment teacher with a strong focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Holly is a member of the New Hampshire Society for Technology in Education (NHSTE) and the New Hampshire Science Teachers Association. She has presented at a variety of New England conferences including the New England League of Middle Schools Conference and the Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference. Holly has coached a fourth and fifth grade LEGO League team as well as after-school robotics clubs and she is a member of the LEGO Education Advisory Panel providing leadership and feedback on STEM solutions in the elementary classroom.

The activity Holly featured in her PAEMST video was an engineering lesson involving the oceans. The activity began with a wordless picture book that drew first grade students into an imaginative world of oceans and marine animals. Students connected their knowledge of the oceans and recent recycling efforts to examine the problem of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Students were challenged to help solve this problem by finding an inventive way to clean the trash from the ocean. During the lesson, students participated in all aspects of the engineering design process from planning, to creating and finally improving their designs.

Holly has a BS in Elementary Education from the University of Maine at Farmington and a MEd in Technology in Education from Lesley University. She most recently “graduated” from the Space Camp program at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. She is an advocate of project-based learning and the infusion of STEM in the early grades and believes that anything can be taught with a block or a book.

Milken Educator Awards

The Milken Educator Awards (MEA) give public recognition and financial rewards to elementary and secondary school teachers, principals, and other educational professionals who are furthering excellence in education. By honoring outstanding educators, the program strives to celebrate, elevate and activate excellence in education. The MEA is not an accolade for lifetime achievement. Recipients are heralded in early to mid-career for what they have achieved... and for the promise of what they will accomplish in the future. Unlike most teaching awards The Milken Educator Awards have no formal nomination or application process. Instead, educators are recommended for this prestigious honor by a blue-ribbon panel appointed by each State’s Department of Education. Candidates for the Milken National Educator Awards are selected on the basis of numerous criteria, including:

- Exceptional educational talent as evidenced by effective instructional practices and student learning results in the classroom and school;
- Exemplary educational accomplishments beyond the classroom that provide models of excellence for the profession;
- Individuals whose contributions to education are largely unheralded yet worthy of the spotlight;
- Early- to mid-career educators who offer strong long-range potential for professional and policy leadership; and

- Engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues, and the community.

About the Recipient

August “Gus” Carlson

School: Adeline C. Marston School, Hampton

Teaching Experience: 13 years

Gus has been teaching at the Adeline C. Marston School in Hampton for 13 years. Although he's a music instructor, rhythms and melodies aren't the only topics Gus teaches at Adeline C. Marston. He stirs in equal measures of math, reading, science and writing into his well-culled curriculum. He proactively queries teachers to identify those subjects students are struggling with and finds ways to address those weaknesses in his class.

Mr. Carlson incorporates songs, mnemonics, holiday productions and two annual plays, which focus on one major standard in a core subject, like “Geometry Island” in math or “Table of Elements” and “Plant Cycle” in science. Students also write essays and poems on the holidays throughout the year, along with a full suite of other innovative standards-based strategies. Carlson is on the job before and after school, teaching students new instruments. Also impressive: A full 90 percent of his kids continue honing their musical abilities in middle school.

He mentors other district teachers, is his school's curriculum leader, and serves on the Response to Intervention committee, to name a few. For the Veteran's Day Assembly at Marston, he invited 65 local veterans to watch the show-an applause-worthy example of his community outreach.

New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

Each year since 1952, New Hampshire schools have taken part in the State and National Teacher of the Year Program. Educators are selected from any New Hampshire state-approved or accredited school, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, if they are planning to continue in an active teaching status. Anyone can nominate an outstanding teacher. The purpose of the program is to select a teacher who is worthy of speaking for and energizing the teaching profession, and representing the positive contributions of all teachers statewide. He or she should:

- inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn;
- have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues;
- play an active role in the community as well as in the school; and
- be poised, articulate, and possess the energy to work under a taxing schedule.

In New Hampshire, Hannaford Supermarkets is proud to partner with the Department of Education to sponsor the New Hampshire Teacher of the Year (NH TOY) program. "Hannaford is proud to recognize and celebrate the teaching profession and to honor the valued role teachers play in our communities by sponsoring the NH Teacher of the Year Program," said NH TOY Committee Member and Hannaford Retail Operations Support Specialist, Jean-Marie Beauchemin. "Congratulations to all the teachers being recognized tonight and thank you to all New Hampshire teachers for their commitment to their profession and their advocacy for their students."

It is the mission of the National Teacher of the Year Program to recognize and honor the contributions of the American classroom teacher. The National Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by the ING Foundation and Target, is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers, in partnership with the University of Phoenix Foundation and People to People Ambassador Programs. It is the oldest and most prestigious honors program to focus public attention on excellence in teaching.

For the past twelve years SMART Technologies has been honored to support U.S. State Teacher of the Year award programs through its Teaching Excellence Award program (TEA Program). SMART Technologies donates \$16,000 in classroom technology products and services.

About the Recipient

Heidi Welch

Hillsboro-Deering High School

Experience: Sixteen Years

Heidi Welch has been teaching music at Hillsboro-Deering High School for the last fourteen years. The selection committee recognizes her passion for education, the excitement she brings to the classroom and her ability to reach every student. She possesses boundless commitment to support and guide the successes of her students. She realizes that literacy is the key to being truly free and strives to engage students in this pursuit through music. Literacy through music means that her students study American history in the context of the music of peoples lives and the times, that students read the plays to which they are performing the scores, and that reading is fundamental but literacy means so much more.

Heidi says she knew that education was the key to a door that would lead her out of a life of poverty and fear and into a life of freedom and opportunity. She entered college with the dreams of becoming a British Literature teacher, but within only a few weeks, found the pull of being a music teacher too much to ignore. She knew that if music education allowed her to find herself as a student, instilled a passion for the arts and for learning, and gave her a chance to push herself in ways that she never thought possible, that it would surely do the same for other young people trying to find where they fit. She gives them a chance to learn, to express themselves, and most of all to find a safe place to call home for a few hours a day: a space where they belonged, are part of a group that is achieving excellence, and learning valuable life lessons along the way. While she is a music educator, she stresses the educator first, and to her education begins with the ability to read. Literacy in and through the arts is a passion for her and will continue to be. Though music is her filter, literacy is her ultimate goal. Her message to her students will continue to emulate Fredrick Douglass's words from long ago. When you can read AND WRITE you are truly free, and through music education everyone can find a way to sing.

2013 NH Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists

Kelly Ciarametaro, Merrimack Valley Middle School, Penacook, Reading

Donald Shirley, Windham Middle School, Social Studies/Reading/Language Arts

James White, Iber Holmes Gove Middle School, Raymond, Science/Social Studies

2013 NH Teacher of the Year Finalists

Gail Boucher, Auburn Village School, Grade 3

Deborah Dixon, Inter-Lakes Elementary School, Meredith, Early Interventions (K-2)

Margaret Horan, Pine Tree Elementary, Center Conway, Grades 5/6 loop

Ryan O'Connor, Windham High School, American Literature

*The New Hampshire Department of Education
wishes to thank Hannaford Supermarkets for their continued support of the
New Hampshire Teacher of the Year Program.*



And SMART Technologies for their generous donation of classroom technology products and services.

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The mission of the Department of Education is to provide educational leadership and services that promote equal educational opportunities and quality practices and programs that enable New Hampshire residents to become fully productive members of society.