



Twelfth 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 Teacher of the Year
Semi-Finalists, Finalists
and the
New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

December 11, 2013

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 – Michael Komisarek, Senior
Pinkerton Academy

Welcome – Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

Remarks by Maggie Hassan
Governor of New Hampshire

Remarks by Heidi Welch
2013 NH Teacher of the Year

Dinner

NH Blue Ribbon Schools

NH Presidential Award for Excellence in
Mathematics and Science Teaching

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 Joey Lee
2014 NH Teacher of the Year

Close

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

Tonight, at the twelfth Annual Celebrating Leadership in Education Awards Ceremony, we honor educators who are working to provide a quality education to each student in New Hampshire. Teaching is both an art and science, the most difficult, most rewarding, and most important of careers. While all classroom teachers should be recognized on a daily basis, the New Hampshire Department Education annually honors exemplary educators through various recognition programs.

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. 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. The Department of Education would like to applaud the outstanding achievements of these recipients.

Heidi Welch 2013 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

Heidi Welch has been teaching music in NH for eighteen years, the last sixteen of which have been at Hillsboro-Deering High School in Hillsboro, NH. She possesses boundless commitment to support and guide the successes of her students. She strives to engage students in the pursuit of literacy through music while encouraging a high level of musicianship, encouraging a safe and supportive classroom and school culture, and supporting academic success. 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.

Hollis Primary School in Hollis, and Newfields Elementary School in Newfields, were chosen as "Exemplary High Performing" schools and Lin-Wood Public Elementary School in Lincoln, was chosen as an "Exemplary Improving" school.

About the Recipients

Hollis Primary School

Elizabeth Allen, Principal

Hollis Primary School is in southern New Hampshire and serves 350 students in pre-K to third grade. The mission of Hollis Primary School is to ensure a strong, supportive learning environment focused on academic excellence. What sets this vision apart from that of so many other schools is not the eloquence of its descriptors, but the totality with which this community embraces its spirit. Teachers, administrators, specialists, and students together are secure in the conviction that all children are capable of learning at very high levels. The academic program is aligned through the grades in order to maximize student success.

Lin-Wood Public Elementary

Robert Nelson, Principal

Lin-Wood Public Elementary, Lincoln is a small, rural school located in the White Mountains of Northern New Hampshire. There are 147 students in the school which covers K -5 education. This small sized family atmosphere in which everyone supports one another provides the staff the opportunity to analyze each students strengths and support growth in areas where students need assistance. Utilizing the RtI model that was introduced by the previous director of Elementary Education, Mr. Michael Weaver, with support of his staff, insures that academic interventions are targeting specific needs. There are numerous volunteers that are invested in making a difference.

Newfields Elementary School

Helen Rist, Principal

Newfields Elementary School serves 150 students K-5. The school began in 1907 as a two room school house. Today, with four additions, it is a modern school with a rich history and state of the art amenities. The school encourages academic excellence in a nurturing environment where all individuals are valued intellectually, emotionally, artistically, socially and physically and are empowered to develop to their maximum potential so that they can make contributions to the global community. The extensive parent involvement and family atmosphere enhances the learning experience for all members of the school community.

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 Recipients – Science

Stephanie Burke

School: West Running Brook Middle School, Derry

Teaching Experience: 8 years

Stephanie Burke is a science teacher at West Running Brook Middle School in Derry, New Hampshire. The curriculum includes a trimester of chemistry, geology, and astronomy. She is a member of the NH Science Teachers Association (NHSTA) and the National Science Teacher's Association (NSTA). Outside of work, Stephanie owns a small horse farm in Deerfield, New Hampshire and competes with her Saddlebred mare. Recently, she won her division for the first time this year on the New Hampshire circuit.

For both the PAEMST video and written component, Stephanie focused on an astronomy lesson that included the relationship of the Sun, Moon, and Earth and how their movement affects Earth specifically with eclipses. Students used three different

kinds of models to recreate both solar and lunar eclipses. Instructional strategies showcased in the lesson included goal setting, opportunities for feedback, comparing/contrasting, cooperative learning, and a hands on activity. This was a heterogeneously grouped class that included 23% of students with a disability and 14% of the students who are part of an accelerated program. The lesson was designed to address key misconceptions about eclipses and allow students to put their knowledge of astronomy into practice.

Jennifer Deenik

School: Souhegan High School

Teaching Experience: 20 years

After 20 years of teaching, Jennifer Deenik continues to challenge herself both in and out of the classroom. Jenny teaches Living Systems (Biology) to 10th grade students at Souhegan High School. The lesson featured in Ms. Deenik's application expanded on the study of bioethics and genetic engineering. The lesson spurred outstanding student questions and discussion focusing on the ethics of gene therapy, genetically modified foods and stem cell research. The students demonstrated use of higher order thinking skills in understanding and evaluating the varying viewpoints associated with the ethics of genetic engineering.

As a teacher, Jenny participated in a three year research and development initiative studying how Bloom's Taxonomy can be used in the science classroom to increase students' complex thinking. Currently, Jenny is engaged in a new research project focused on the relationship between profound learning (rooted in value, expectations and motivation) and student engagement.

Outside of the classroom, Jenny is involved in a number of school, district, state and national initiatives. Jenny's first love is as a Critical Friends Group coach. She both coaches a CFG at her school, and a national coach for SRI, the School Reform Initiative. Jenny is part of her district's three-year Teacher Leader Effectiveness committee developing standards and an evaluation program for teachers and leaders. Jenny was recently selected to be a Practitioner Assessment Coach as part of the State of New Hampshire's Performance Assessment Network.

Jennifer attended the University of NH-Durham where she received a BS degree in Natural Resources and later went back to get her Master's degree concentrating in Life and Secondary Education.

Angela Lennox

School: Exeter High School

Teaching Experience: 30 Years

Angela Lennox is a biology teacher at Exeter High School in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire. Currently she teaches biology I at the honors level, AP biology and semester elective courses at the college prep level in forensics and oceanography. Angela has also taught physical science, chemistry and brain and body classes at EHS. Angela is a member of the New Hampshire Science Teachers Association (NHSTA), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). She has made presentations to the NHSTA and the NABT national conventions. Angela is very involved with the SAU 16 Science committee

and the EHS Peer Outreach group. Outside of the teaching profession she has been actively involved in her church community and the Volunteer Fire Service where she has been an EMT for 30 years. Her hobbies include sailing, kayaking and photography and many of her photographs appear in her classroom curriculum materials.

The activity that Angela featured in her PAEMST video was a lab reviewing categories of classification using everyday lab objects. Students worked in cooperative groups to come up with their own classification criteria. The lab was part of a classification unit that Angela had written for the EHS IPAD initiative last year. Students used the IPADS to research a webquest that reviewed the historical development of classification schemes; group work presenting the characteristics of current domains and kingdoms and an individual species classification review.

Angela has a B.Sc. from the University College of North Wales in Botany and Marine Science and a Ph.D. from the University College of North Wales, U.K. in Marine Science (chemical oceanography and phycology).

Emily Sherman

School: Longview School, Deerfield

Teaching Experience: 8 years

Emily Sherman teaches science at the Longview School in Deerfield, NH, a school specializing in experiential education for students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. You can find Emily outside with her students gardening, bird watching, or knee-deep in a stream catching dragonfly larvae to sample for mercury contamination. Emily is a National Board Certified Teacher in Adolescence and Young Adulthood Science, a performance-based certification for accomplished master teachers. She received a Noyce Master Teacher Fellowship for bringing biology case studies into the classroom and a Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship for excellence in geography education. She is passionate about sharing her science expertise with other educators and is a frequent presenter at state and national science conferences.

The video Emily submitted for this award showed a lesson on genetics in the biology classroom. Students were using Reebops, a model "organism" made from marshmallows, to illustrate Mendelian genetics and create pedigrees. Because of their attentional challenges, students at the Longview School are more successful in classrooms that provide them with physical manipulatives to learn key concepts.

Emily has a B.A. in Environmental Education from Prescott College in Arizona and a M.S. in Biology from Washington University in St. Louis. She taught science in New Mexico and Maine before moving to New Hampshire.

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. The Teacher of the Year serves as a leader and ambassador for all the outstanding teachers devoted to the highest level of student learning. 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

Joseph "Joey" Lee

Pinkerton Academy

Experience: Seven Years

Joey Lee is in his seventh year of teaching at Pinkerton Academy. The selection committee recognized his conviction and passion to teaching, the energy he brings to the classroom, and his philosophy of making every student better. He believes it is his job to teach each individual, recognizing the unique characteristics and strengths of each student, working to hone their strengths and overcome their challenges. Mr. Lee said, "I try and relate to the students by establishing mutually respectful and honest relationships built on mutual effort." Joey is an exceptional educator and leader with complete dedication to his students and his teaching and is highly respected by his administration and his colleagues. In addition to teaching, he is also the golf and hockey coach as well as the Co-Director to the China Exchange Program.

2014 NH Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists

- Nate Grove, Oyster River Middle School, Durham, Social Studies
- Denise Lessard, Winnisquam Regional High School, Tilton, Social Sciences
- Peter Willis, Londonderry High School, Social Studies

2014 NH Teacher of the Year Finalists

- Jane Calnan, Dr. George Emerson Elementary School, Fitzwilliam, Reading Specialist
- Carrie Charette, Franklin High School, English
- Janice Ellerin, Hollis Brookline Middle School, Life Science
- Lori-Lyn Griffin, Hampstead Middle School, Science

*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.