



NEWS

Connecticut Department of Education

Dr. Mark K. McQuillan, Commissioner

FOR SCHEDULED RELEASE:

Contact: Tom Murphy 860.713.6525

10:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 13, 2010

High School Science Star Is Named Connecticut's 2011 Teacher of the Year

(Stratford, Conn.) Kristen Ann Record, a physics teacher at Stratford's Bunnell High School for the past decade, was named Connecticut's 2011 Teacher of the Year at a ceremony at her school today.

"I am pleased to introduce as the 2011 Teacher of the Year, an educator who has raised the standard in her classroom and who has helped to bring high-level science teaching to her school, her state and her nation, said State Education Commissioner Mark K. McQuillan in making the announcement. "Connecticut's new high school reform legislation calls for greater emphasis in mathematics and science in our classrooms. It is key to our future. I intend to ask her advice in helping us shape our way forward in bringing science education into the 21st Century in Connecticut's public schools."

Governor M. Jodi Rell offered her congratulations. "Teachers are the foundation of our public education system. It is challenging work to meet the needs of children every day and we cannot emphasize enough the impact our teachers have on our state's future. My best wishes go to Ms. Record as Connecticut's 2011 Teacher of the Year and to all teachers who, each day, make a difference in the lives of our children."

Record, who received a Presidential Award of Excellence in Mathematics and Science and the General Electric STAR Teaching Award is also an expert in the science of renewable energy and has done research at Harvard University and at the National Renewable Energy Academies in Golden, Colorado as U.S. Department of Energy Teacher Scientist Fellow during the summer months. She has also conducted numerous professional development presentations on science teaching and on the science of renewable "green" energy systems.

The daughter of two public school teachers, Record had the opportunity to continue her career as a research scientist after earning her B.S. in Physics from Fairfield University and her Ed.M degree from Harvard University, but chose teaching after completing a semester student teaching. "It has been said that I was destined to be a teacher," says Record, "teaching is in my DNA."

Record brings a unique combination of art, science and mentoring to her classroom. She serves as senior class advisor, Physics Olympics Team Advisor, a member of the Bunnell High School Scholarship Committee, and is a mentor at Fairfield University's Ignatian Residential College. She is also an accomplished member of the Mendelssohn Choir of CT, a community choir in Fairfield County that

regularly collaborates with the Connecticut Grand Opera, the Greater Bridgeport Symphony and the Norwalk Symphony.

Of all her accomplishments, Record says she most enjoys hearing from former students who keep her up-to-date on their progress in college and beyond as future scientists and teachers. “The greatest reward in my profession is knowing I have made a difference in my students’ lives. As a teacher, you never truly know where your influence will end.”

Connecticut’s Teacher of the Year is selected from over 50,000 public school teachers in the state and will represent professional educators in forums and advisory committees that affect education policy and public awareness of the successes and the challenges that schools face today.

Connecticut’s Teacher of the Year will travel to Washington D. C. in the spring to meet with the President and U.S. Secretary of Education. Connecticut’s Teacher of the Year will automatically become a candidate for National Teacher of the Year, which will be announced by President Obama in June, 2011.

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