



FOR SCHEDULED RELEASE:
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World Traveler Named Connecticut's 2012 Teacher of the Year

(Berlin, Conn.) David Bosso, a social studies teacher at Berlin High School in Berlin for the last thirteen years, was named Connecticut's 2012 Teacher of the Year at a ceremony at his school today.

"I am pleased to introduce as the 2012 Teacher of the Year an educator who has developed his students' cultural awareness and fostered global understanding in the classroom—essential skills for graduates entering a diverse and global economy," said State Education Commissioner Stefan Pryor in making the announcement. "Teaching strategies and learning tools must be continually adapted to incorporate the changing demands of our 21st century society. To meet these expectations, students are asked to think critically and set up and solve real-world problems. They learn to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and in a variety of ways. Educators like Mr. Bosso make it possible that students know their part in our global community."

Bosso, who was recognized by the Connecticut Council of the Social Studies for its Excellence in Social Studies Education award in 2009 traveled to Ghana earlier this year through the Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program to work with numerous educators in the development of best teaching practices. He has also traveled to China, Saudi Arabia, and Japan as part of educational delegations, with specific goals of developing greater cross-cultural awareness and fostering global understanding. He will make a presentation this year on using literature in the classroom at the annual National Conference for Social Studies Conference and also serves on the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies and co-chair for the Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies which will be held in 2012.

Teaching social studies in the same high school he attended in the same small town in which he was raised, Bosso earned a B.A. in History/Social Studies from Eastern Connecticut State University, an M.A. in History at Central Connecticut State University, another master's degree in Educational Computing and Technology from the University of Hartford and is currently enrolled in the doctor of education program at American International College in Springfield, MA. Bosso's beliefs about teaching draw from his world travels which find a natural place in the classroom. "One of the greatest rewards of teaching is observing a student begin to make sense of our common humanity, start to realize his or her place in the world, and grasp the potential he or she possesses."

Bosso's work with prospective, current and new teachers is extensive. He serves in the role of TEAM mentor, cooperating teacher, and fieldwork advisor. He also coached the school's boys' basketball program for several years, during which time the team won the 2006 Division III State Championship.

Of all his accomplishments, Bosso says he is drawn to the natural curiosity of students to learn about the world around them. "Because I have been fortunate to have visited many places about which I teach, I am better able to provide a more nuanced view of issues to my students."

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, 2012.

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