



For Immediate Release:

October 22, 2014

Contact: Kelly Donnelly 860.713.6525

Governor Malloy and Commissioner Pryor commend 2014-15 First-Year Principal of the Year

(HARTFORD, CT)—Governor Dannel P. Malloy and Education Commissioner Stefan Pryor today released the following statements regarding the recently named 2014-15 William Cieslukowski First-Year Principal Award recipient, Billie Shea. Ms. Shea is the current school principal of Norwich’s John B. Stanton Elementary School, a Commissioner’s Network school.

Governor Dannel P. Malloy said, “I would like to congratulate Billie Shea for working so hard on behalf of the students and families at Stanton Elementary. By coming together as a community, they’ve begun to transform their school, and Principal Shea’s leadership has been a large part of it. Thanks to Ms. Shea and her team of talented teachers, the futures of the children at Stanton are brighter and more promising. I wish her and everyone at the school continued success as they continue to build off this excellent work.”

Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor said, “On behalf of the State Department of Education, I would like to congratulate Billie Shea on an outstanding first year as principal of Stanton Elementary. Her leadership and ability to work effectively with different groups to carry out Stanton Elementary School’s turnaround plan have produced tremendous results. By increasing instruction time, increasing the quality of the school environment, strengthening family connections, and focusing on data-driven decision-making, she has been able to overcome many obstacles on the way to success. We look forward to offering her and all the students and staff at Stanton our continued support as they work toward their goals.”

The Commissioner’s Network is the state’s lead initiative to turn around the most chronically low-performing schools in Connecticut. Acceptance into the Commissioner’s Network authorizes intensive interventions and enables the supports needed to dramatically improve student achievement through bold, research-based reforms. It qualifies schools for additional flexibility, autonomy, and resources, such as grants and other funding, in exchange for greater accountability.

Over the last three years, Connecticut has invested more than \$36 million into Commissioner’s Network schools. This year, there are 16 schools serving nearly 10,000 students in the Network.

The [William Cieslukowski First-Year Principal Award](#) recipient is selected by the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS).

###

CONTACT: Kelly Donnelly
Connecticut State Department of Education
Phone: 860-713-6525
Mobile: 860-983-1550
Email: Kelly.Donnelly@ct.gov