

Christie Administration Announces New Jersey's County Teachers of the Year for 2014-15

For Immediate Release

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Trenton, NJ – The Christie Administration today announced the selection of New Jersey's 21 County Teachers of the Year and the State Facility Teacher of the Year for the 2014-2015 school year.

By recognizing the 22 teachers for their involvement in their schools, the New Jersey Department of Education has the opportunity to recognize some of the state's most dynamic educators, while gaining valuable input from its teachers. At the same time, teachers are kept up-to-date on the latest innovations of New Jersey educational policy and serve as ambassadors of this information for their own school districts.

The County Teachers of the Year were honored at an Orientation Ceremony on July 31 at the Department of Education in Trenton. Teachers had the opportunity to attend short presentations and interact in Q&A sessions with Department of Education personnel about educational initiatives, including New Jersey's Common Core State Standards, which better prepare children for college and career.

"It's my pleasure to congratulate all of our County Teachers of the Year and State Facility Teacher of the Year for 2014-15," said Acting Education Commissioner David Hespe. "These are model teachers who represent diverse content areas and grade levels. This award is a tribute to their talent, dedication, professionalism, and success with our students. Each year they serve as part of a valuable corps of teacher-leaders who can inspire all of us."

County Teachers of the Year are selected at the county level by panels representing a cross-section of administrators, teachers, parents, and county education association representatives convened by the executive county superintendants of schools.

A state-level panel of educators will select New Jersey's State Teacher of the Year based on a written application, video submission, and interviews with the top five finalists. The State Teacher of the Year will be announced at the State Board of Education's October meeting, and will go on to represent New Jersey at the National Teacher of the Year competition.

"For a school to have one of its educators named as County Teacher of the Year is a great honor. It is a huge community relations bonus," said Diane Cummins, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in the Clearview Regional High School District. As the 2003-04 State Teacher of the Year, she has remained involved in the program at the local, county and state levels. "Having a Teacher of the Year showcases the professional staff's accomplishments and opens many doors of opportunity to educational initiatives and programs," she said.

The National Teacher of the Year Program, of which the County Teacher of the Year program is a part, began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching. It is implemented by the Chief Council of State School Officers (CCSSO). New Jersey signed on with CCSSO to implement the New Jersey Teacher of the Year program in 1969.

Additional information can be found on the Department's [Teacher of the Year web page](#).

New Jersey's 2014-2015 County Teachers of the Year and State Facility Teacher of the Year are as follows:

County	Teacher	Subject - Grade	School District	School
Atlantic	Peter Davis	Technology Education - Grade 5-8	Linwood Public School District	Belhaven Avenue Middle School
Bergen	Daniel Frare	Science - Grade 6	Tenafly School District	Tenafly Middle School
Burlington	David Knecht	English - Grade 9-12	Lenape Regional High School District	Seneca High School
Camden	Natalie Franco	Elementary - Grade 5	Gloucester Township School District	Gloucester Township Elementary School

Cape May	Cynthia Leatherwood	English - Grade 8	Dennis Township School District	Dennis Township Middle School
Cumberland	Lisa Frassetto	Elementary - Grade 1	Upper Deerfield Township School District	Charles F. Seabrook School
Essex	Salvatore Lima	Science - Grade 9-11	Essex County Vocational School District	West Caldwell Tech
Gloucester	Monica Marino	Special Education - Grade 4	Deptford Township School District	Shady Lane Elementary School
Hudson	Mark Mautone	Special Education - Preschool	Hoboken Public School District	Wallace Elementary School
Hunterdon	Adrienne Harley	Kindergarten & Student Support - Grade K-2	Flemington Raritan Regional School District	Francis A. Desmares Elementary School
Mercer	Ismat Shari	Mathematics - Grade 9-12	Hamilton Township School District	Hamilton High School West
Middlesex	Stephanie Cardoso	Elementary - Grade 5	Edison Township School District	Martin Luther King Elementary School
Monmouth	Melissa Murphy	Special Education - Grade 6-8	Belmar School District	Belmar Elementary School
Morris	Geraldine Restivo	Elementary - Grade 5	Randolph Township School District	Fernbrook Elementary School
Ocean	Carolyn Defino	Special Education - Grade 6-7	Manchester Township School District	Manchester Middle School
Passaic	Coleen Weiss-Magasic	Science - Grade 10-12	West Milford Township School District	West Milford Township High School
Salem	Susan Dyer	Preschool	Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District	Early Childhood Learning Center
Somerset	Kathryn Tricarico	Elementary - Kindergarten	Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District	Adamsville Primary School
State Facility	Deborah Wood	Elementary - Grade 4-7	NJ Dept. of Children & Families - Office of Ed.	Cherry Hill Regional School Campus
Sussex	Yvonne Mortello	Elementary - Kindergarten	Hopatcong Borough School District	Hudson Maxim Elementary School
Union	Drew Krumholz	Spanish - Grade 9-12	Springfield Public School District	Jonathan Dayton High School
Warren	Ann Marie Ball	Gifted & Talented, & Math Coach - Grade K-5	Phillipsburg School District	Freeman School and Green Street School