

SCOPE's
20TH ANNUAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Awards Dinner

Over 50 Years of Service

*Shining
Above
The Rest*



2021

SCOPE is a not-for-profit educational organization permanently chartered by the New York State Board of Regents to provide services to school districts. Founded in 1964 by school superintendents, it is a cooperative venture for sharing resources to address common concerns. It is governed by a Board of Directors of school superintendents and college representatives and serves as a regional School Study Council and School Board Institute.

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the annual awards special edition of SCOPE's newsletter, The Forum. It is appropriate that this be called a "special edition," as the sole purpose of this particular edition is to recognize the many individuals across Long Island who have stepped up and met the many challenges faced by public school districts during this unprecedented time. During the past year, the world has been enclosed in a COVID-19 pandemic bubble which has presented challenges across the globe. In recent history, the United States has not been affected by anything which has prevented people from going to work or has prevented children from attending school. In March 2020, all that changed. Businesses were forced to close their doors, children could not attend schools, families were unable to gather to celebrate holidays or special occasions and thousands of individuals fell ill with a virus that claimed the lives of so many Americans. Yet, public school districts found a way to continue educating the children across New York State. Remote instruction was established and use of computers and technology was implemented. Under the leadership of school administrators, school boards, teachers, school district support staff and members of each community, everyone worked together to ensure that children were able to learn. While this did not happen without problems, what was clear is that the well-being of the children was a priority.

This edition of The Forum recognizes 181 individuals from 47 public school districts across Long Island. Each of these individuals has been selected by their own school district to be recognized for their outstanding efforts to ensure that, even under very difficult and extreme circumstances, the safety, well-being and education of our children is always a priority. School administrators, classroom teachers, district support staff, school board members and community members became the unsung heroes of their school districts. I know that you join me in thanking each of these outstanding individuals for all they did and continue to do for the children of Long Island.

On behalf of SCOPE Education Services Board of Directors and the entire staff of SCOPE, we congratulate you and thank you. As a result of your efforts, dedication, hard work and perseverance you truly "Shine Above the Rest!"

A very special thank-you to all of the sponsors who supported these awards, who we recognize and list in this edition of The Forum. Without their generosity, these awards would not have been possible.

Sincerely,

George L Duffy
Executive Director/CEO

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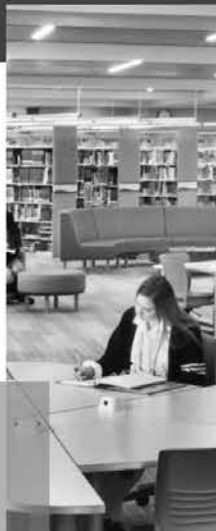
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20TH ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AWARDS - 2021

Honorees

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Michael J. Cox
Bridgehampton UFSD

Jose Cruz
Sachem CSD

Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly
West Babylon UFSD

Debra A. Ferry
Half Hollow Hills CSD

Pamela Fine
Elwood UFSD

Michael Flood
Nassau BOCES

Carl Fraser
Tuckahoe Common SD

Mary Garguilo
Freeport UFSD

Claudia Germain
Westbury UFSD

Brian Gladstone
Roosevelt UFSD

Kathleen Granelli
Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD

Shawn Hanley
West Babylon UFSD

Dr. Bruce Hoffman
Island Park UFSD

Neil Katz
Smithtown CSD

Amanda Kavanagh
Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD

Peter LaDuca
Nassau BOCES

Dr. Karen Lessler
Kings Park CSD

Kim Levy
*New Hyde Park-Garden City
Park UFSD*

Thomas E. Lynch, Jr.
Seaford UFSD

Patrice Matthews
Bellmore UFSD

Dr. Rita Melikian
Garden City UFSD

Paul Noonan
Patchogue-Medford UFSD

Louis Parrinello
Shoreham-Wading River CSD

Scott Payne
West Babylon UFSD

Dr. Vincent Pereira
Freeport UFSD

Lawrence S. Philips
Central Islip UFSD

Matthew Providente
Central Islip UFSD

Michele Psarakis
West Babylon UFSD

Maureen Raynor
Harborfields CSD

Tawanna Rice
Wyandanch UFSD

Mark Sabella
North Babylon UFSD

Antonio Santana
Glen Cove City SD

Karen Sauter
Long Beach Public Schools

Adam Sherrard
Port Jefferson UFSD

Stacie Spatafora-DiCio
Sachem CSD

Michael Van Wart
Lindenhurst UFSD

Thomas Weiner
Central Islip UFSD

John Zampaglione
Levittown UFSD

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Sylvia Bastone <i>Kings Park CSD</i>	Larry Kogel <i>Shoreham-Wading River CSD</i>	Henry "Hank" Sessa <i>Bellmore UFSD</i>
Dennis Brennan <i>Port Jefferson UFSD</i>	Bevin Llanes <i>Sachem CSD</i>	Lester H. Smith <i>Bellmore UFSD</i>
Anthony P. D'Esposito <i>Island Park UFSD</i>	Jessica Lowenhar <i>Harborfields CSD</i>	Vicki Sylvain <i>Westbury UFSD</i>
Andrea Elsky <i>Smithtown CSD</i>	Robert Lucchesse <i>West Babylon UFSD</i>	Anthony J. Tatti <i>North Babylon UFSD</i>
Families and Residents of the <i>William Floyd School District</i> <i>William Floyd UFSD</i>	Roseann Miceli <i>Half Hollow Hills CSD</i>	Joyce Wheeler <i>New Hyde Park-Garden City Park UFSD</i>
Frank Giannone <i>Bellmore UFSD</i>	Dr. Emily Moore <i>Roosevelt UFSD</i>	Elizabeth Whelan Kotz <i>Bridgehampton UFSD</i>
Dr. Scott Gross <i>Elwood UFSD</i>	Jennifer Nemschick <i>Mattituck-Cutchogue UFSD</i>	Jill Wolynetz <i>Brentwood UFSD</i>
Michael Gurrera <i>Levittown UFSD</i>	Minerva Perez <i>Hampton Bays UFSD</i>	Roberta Zoller <i>Bayport-Blue Point UFSD</i>
	Rebecca Sanin <i>Hampton Bays UFSD</i>	

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Donald L. Ashkenase <i>Great Neck UFSD</i>	Jennifer DeRocchis <i>New Hyde Park-Garden City Park UFSD</i>	Eric Geringswald <i>Half Hollow Hills CSD</i>
Jarrett Behar <i>Commack UFSD</i>	Brian Desmond <i>Bellmore UFSD</i>	Matthew Gribbin <i>Smithtown CSD</i>
Board of Education <i>William Floyd UFSD</i>	Ann Donaldson <i>Babylon UFSD</i>	<i>Harborfields Board of Education</i> <i>Harborfields CSD</i>
Gabriela Castillo <i>Freeport UFSD</i>	Jo-Ann Erhard <i>North Bellmore UFSD</i>	Sean Hattrick <i>Tuckahoe Common SD</i>
Melissa Cmar-Grote <i>North Bellmore UFSD</i>	John Evola <i>West Babylon UFSD</i>	Ilene Herz, Esq. <i>Western Suffolk BOCES</i>
Deborah Coates <i>Nassau BOCES</i>	Eileen Felix <i>Brentwood UFSD</i>	Nina Lanci <i>North Bellmore UFSD</i>
William F. Connors, Jr. <i>Three Village CSD</i>	Timothy Frazier <i>Springs UFSD</i>	Christina Lang <i>Levittown UFSD</i>
Rosemarie Corless <i>North Bellmore UFSD</i>	Melissa Gates <i>Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD</i>	Christine Malloy <i>North Bellmore UFSD</i>

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD (CONTINUED)

Belinda Monroe <i>Roosevelt UFSD</i>	Tricia Pané <i>Babylon UFSD</i>	Markanthony Verzosa <i>Bridgehampton UFSD</i>
Jarod B. Morris <i>Wyandanch UFSD</i>	Andrea Parisi <i>Seaford UFSD</i>	Jack Vobis <i>Island Park UFSD</i>
Mary Murphy <i>Glen Cove City SD</i>	Henry Perez <i>Shoreham-Wading River CSD</i>	Latesha Walker <i>Wyandanch UFSD</i>
Anthony O'Brien <i>Patchogue-Medford UFSD</i>	Fred Philips <i>Central Islip UFSD</i>	
Elizabeth O'Brien <i>Babylon UFSD</i>	Rose Sekelsky <i>Glen Cove City SD</i>	

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Lynda Abner <i>Harborfields CSD</i>	Donna Bushelon <i>Islip UFSD</i>	Pamela Greenfield <i>Franklin Square UFSD</i>
Kara Alcabes <i>Sayville UFSD</i>	Mary Jean Carlson <i>Shoreham-Wading River CSD</i>	Dave Guichard <i>Kings Park CSD</i>
Kelly Angelo <i>Island Park UFSD</i>	Kelly Carmona <i>Springs UFSD</i>	Tara Gurney <i>Springs UFSD</i>
All William Floyd School District Employees <i>William Floyd UFSD</i>	Jane Chiappone <i>West Babylon UFSD</i>	Kisha Hadzicki <i>Patchogue-Medford UFSD</i>
Aramark Food Services <i>William Floyd UFSD</i>	Marianita Cleere <i>Westbury UFSD</i>	Sharon Harding <i>Seaford UFSD</i>
Lucy Arnone <i>Port Jefferson UFSD</i>	Georgina Cramer <i>Central Islip UFSD</i>	Michelle Hickey <i>Islip UFSD</i>
Karen Ayala <i>Glen Cove City SD</i>	Victor DeRosa <i>Half Hollow Hills CSD</i>	Jessica Knowles <i>Center Moriches UFSD</i>
Julie Bistran <i>Springs UFSD</i>	First Student Transportation <i>William Floyd UFSD</i>	Teresa Lotito <i>Sayville UFSD</i>
Catherine Breuer <i>Nassau BOCES</i>	Johnny Garrett <i>Westbury UFSD</i>	Officer George Lynagh <i>Babylon UFSD</i>
Donna Brown <i>Sayville UFSD</i>	Debra Gherardi <i>Springs UFSD</i>	Sandra Martinez <i>Wyandanch UFSD</i>
Ann Burger <i>New Hyde Park-Garden City Park UFSD</i>	Mary Giorgio <i>Bellmore UFSD</i>	Christine Martucci <i>Smithtown CSD</i>
Lorraine Burke <i>Seaford UFSD</i>	David Gordon <i>Roosevelt UFSD</i>	Kathleen McCabe <i>Sachem CSD</i>

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD (CONTINUED)

Jennifer McDonald <i>Sayville UFSD</i>	Christina Rotunno <i>North Babylon UFSD</i>	Kyle Swan and All Long Beach Public Schools Food Service Workers <i>Long Beach Public Schools</i>
Bianca Munguia <i>Mattituck-Cutchogue UFSD</i>	Russell Simpkins <i>Freeport UFSD</i>	James Tosner <i>Levittown UFSD</i>
Kathleen Nolan <i>Sayville UFSD</i>	Lumbert Slade <i>Elwood UFSD</i>	Monica Valestrand <i>Bayport-Blue Point UFSD</i>
Lisa Park <i>Southold UFSD</i>	Mitch Sobczyk <i>Tuckahoe Common SD</i>	Gail Vlahoginis <i>Brentwood UFSD</i>
Susan Rende <i>Sayville UFSD</i>	Francine Sonesen <i>Bellmore UFSD</i>	
Jennifer Riviello <i>Sayville UFSD</i>	Simone Sooklall <i>Bridgehampton UFSD</i>	

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Jennifer Banks <i>New Hyde Park-Garden City Park UFSD</i>	Nancy Goldfader <i>Patchogue-Medford UFSD</i>	Todd Parrish <i>Roosevelt UFSD</i>
Virginia Beebe <i>Mattituck-Cutchogue UFSD</i>	Renate Johnson <i>Westbury UFSD</i>	Mary Pepe <i>Sachem CSD</i>
Ellen Benedetto <i>Wyandanch UFSD</i>	Eric Lichtwar <i>Seaford UFSD</i>	Patricia Pozin <i>Island Park UFSD</i>
Elizabeth Bruno <i>Tuckahoe Common SD</i>	Stacy Lopez <i>Center Moriches UFSD</i>	Eileen Ratto <i>Babylon UFSD</i>
Michael Byrne <i>Bridgehampton UFSD</i>	Lauren Maguire <i>Garden City UFSD</i>	Danielle Senneca <i>Shoreham-Wading River CSD</i>
Mary P. Byrnes <i>Half Hollow Hills CSD</i>	Karen McGrann <i>Oysterponds UFSD</i>	Eileen Shultis <i>Freeport UFSD</i>
Kelly Connolly <i>West Babylon UFSD</i>	Diana Mikochik <i>Brentwood UFSD</i>	Sheila Tobin Cavooris <i>Smithtown CSD</i>
Kathleen Cumming <i>Kings Park CSD</i>	Kathryn Moleti <i>Nassau BOCES</i>	Heather Trifiletti <i>Bayport-Blue Point UFSD</i>
Alison Fletcher <i>Glen Cove City SD</i>	Cynthia Morales <i>Lindenhurst UFSD</i>	Susan Turrini <i>Harborfields CSD</i>
Andy Fotopoulos <i>Hampton Bays UFSD</i>	Laurette Nally <i>Levittown UFSD</i>	Christy Webb <i>Oysterponds UFSD</i>
Lisa Friend <i>Elwood UFSD</i>	Regina Paquette <i>Port Jefferson UFSD</i>	

About This Year's Award Recipients

BABYLON UFSD

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Ann Donaldson

Mrs. Ann Donaldson has served as a trustee on the Babylon Board of Education for the past nine years and two of those years as the President of the Board of Education. Mrs. Donaldson currently serves as the audit committee chair and has served on that committee for seven years. She has also served on all committees as the President of the Board of Education. Mrs. Donaldson holds a BS in Social Studies from SUNY Buffalo, a MA in Liberal Studies and an Advanced Certificate in Educational Leadership from SUNY Stony Brook.

Elizabeth O'Brien

Ms. Elizabeth O'Brien has served as a trustee on the Babylon Board of Education for the past seven years. She has served as Vice President for one year and two years as President of the Board of Education which position she currently holds. Ms. O'Brien served as chairperson of the policy committee and as President currently serves on all committees. Ms. O'Brien holds a Bachelor of Music from Ithaca College and a MA from Hofstra University.

Tricia Pané

Mrs. Tricia Pané has served as a trustee on the Babylon Board of Education for the past six years. She has served as Vice President for one year and two years as President of the Board of Education. Mrs. Pané currently serves as the policy committee chair and has served as the chairperson on the audit committee. She has also served on all committees as the President of the Board of Education. Mrs. Pané holds a BS in Biology from Wake Forest University and an MPA (Masters Public Administration) from Baruch School of Public Affairs.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Officer George Lynagh

Suffolk County Police Officer George Lynagh served as Babylon High School's School Resource Officer. Known fondly as Officer George, he served in this role many years prior to his recent retirement from the Suffolk County Police Department after 36 years of service. He has been a guiding voice working with our students on such topics as drug awareness and prevention, bullying prevention, alcohol awareness and prevention, as well as many other health and safety-related topics that he delivered inside our classrooms as well as through coordinated school-wide assemblies. Officer George has been a trusted and admired adult among our grades 7-12 student population, even offering his DJ skills at many school-based dances and celebrations.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Eileen Ratto

Ms. Eileen Ratto is a Special Education/AIS teacher who has worked for Babylon Schools for the past 19 years. She co-taught in our inclusion classrooms, served as a resource room and multi-grade special class teacher, and has provided multi-sensory reading services. Ms. Ratto also served as a mentor to new teachers as well as veteran teachers, who continually seek her expertise and advice. Ms. Ratto co-chairs the building RTI team, leading colleagues on exploring interventions that enable youngsters to grow as learners. She is also an active member of SEPTA. Ms. Ratto holds dual certifications in both special education and elementary education. She received her Bachelor of Science from Dowling College and her Master's degree from The State University of New York, Stony Brook.

BAYPORT-BLUE POINT UFSD

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Roberta Zoller

George Steinbrenner said, “if you do something good for some person and more than two people know about it — you and the other person — then you didn’t do it for the right reason.” This statement exemplifies Roberta Zoller, a leader of the BBP Booster Club for years. She has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to provide our athletes and school community with amenities that, as a district, we couldn’t purchase due to budget constraints. Through Roberta’s efforts, she has helped secure and donate more than \$200,000 worth of equipment and supplies to the BBP District. These enhancements have helped elevate the success of our teams and positively impact thousands of student-athletes. I can say with confidence that Roberta Zoller has helped to transform and shape our sports programs and in turn has helped BBP Athletics Shine Above the Rest.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Monica Valestrand

With the district’s initiative of having a Go-To person, Nurse Valestrand is definitely one to many. She is dependable, professional, efficient, and always there when we need her. She has worked diligently to support the district through the times of COVID-19, attending workshops, meetings, and doing research on her own time. She is a leader in her nursing cohort, taking on the role of chairperson, being proactive with coverages, and striving for synergy among the group. She respects privacy, communicates appropriately with parents, and makes sure everything is done accurately and in a timely manner. Her plate is usually not just full, but overflowing, yet she always checks in to see what else needs to be done. She is an asset to both the building and district and we are grateful for her dedication to our BBP community.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Heather Trifiletti

Ms. Trifiletti began her teaching career in BBP in 2009. She has been involved in many capacities both in the classroom as a mathematics teacher, and outside the classroom as a Frost Valley chaperone and an advisor for the National Junior Honor Society. Our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Timothy Hearney, often speaks about our students having a go-to person they can trust and rely on. There was an instance this year where one of our students needed the help of a trusted adult. That student turned to Ms. Trifiletti in her time of greatest need and Ms. Trifiletti was there to help the student. Ms. Trifiletti is a valued member of the James Wilson Young Middle School staff and her positive impact is felt both inside and outside the classroom.

BELLMORE UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Patrice Matthews

Patrice Matthews became the principal of Bellmore’s Shore Road School in 2011. Mrs. Matthews has always focused on providing student and staff development through strong leadership and support. This year, that focus was more valuable than ever before as she led students, staff, and parents through the process of remote learning in March, 2020, and then a return to in-person learning in September, 2020. Her emphasis in educating the whole child, academically, socially, and emotionally has become even more pronounced, as she helps students navigate the new normal with attention to empowering them to realize their potential. Mrs. Matthews embodies the district’s mission statement of Lead and Learn.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Frank Giannone

Frank Giannone spent nearly 35 years working in the Bellmore Schools first as a custodian, then a head custodian before his retirement in 1991. However, Mr. Giannone continued to be a part of the

Bellmore Schools as he would often stop in at the schools to confer with the custodians and provided support and advice as only he could. After retiring from the school district, he continued his work with the Bellmore Fire Department where he volunteered for 56 years. Frank's recent passing reminded the entire Bellmore community of the impact one person can have on generations. He exemplified what it means to provide leadership through service.

Henry "Hank" Sessa

Hank Sessa was a physical education teacher in the Bellmore Schools for 35 years and president of the faculty organization for 25 years. Following his retirement from teaching, Mr. Sessa worked for many years as a retirement consultant to New York State United Teachers assisting members of both NYSTRS and NYSERS to make informed decisions that affect the years beyond their public service. Mr. Sessa has kept his strong ties to the Bellmore Schools since his retirement, supporting administrators and staff members as well as a number of initiatives, and annually donating gift cards during the holidays for families in need.

Lester H. Smith

An army veteran and recent graduate of Hofstra University, Lester Smith was appointed to a teaching position in the Bellmore Schools in September of 1961. He retired 28 years later and served as president of the Bellmore Faculty Organization Retirees for the next 20 years. He continued to mentor teachers and consult with administrators long after retiring from the district and to support the Bellmore Schools in a myriad of ways. A visit from Lester Smith to any of the Bellmore Schools cast a feeling of warmth over the building and those in it. His recent passing gave the school community a reason to pause and remember what Lester Smith stood for and what made him so beloved by all: a commitment to educating the whole student, collegial dedication, and always choosing kindness.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Brian Desmond

Mr. Desmond was first elected to the Bellmore Board of Education in 2009. Twelve years later, having been elected to four consecutive terms, Mr. Desmond is retiring from the Board because he is planning to move out of state. Over the years, Mr. Desmond has served on the Board's purchasing, audit, by-laws, and community relations committees, and has twice served as Board President. Throughout his years as a Board member, Mr. Desmond has exemplified the Bellmore Schools' core values and demonstrated leadership. He has shown a dedication to the students, staff and administration, and integrity for the office of a school board member. He has shown respect for the school community and the residents of Bellmore, especially with regard to financial accountability.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Francine Sonesen

Francine Sonesen, a Bellmore resident, was an active member of the Bellmore Elementary PTA for many years, including serving as president. She then began working in the Bellmore Schools in 1995 as a school monitor. She became a teacher aide shortly thereafter and in 2004 became the clerk typist at the Winthrop Avenue School. Mrs. Sonesen is the team player who can be counted on at any time, under any circumstances. Her strong work ethic, dedication to the school community, and commitment to providing every student and staff member with the support they need to succeed, makes her a special asset to the Bellmore Schools.

Mary Giorgio

Mary Giorgio began working in the Bellmore Schools as a non-instructional employee in 1993. Having held numerous positions in the schools over the years and working in the special education department before her appointment as secretary to the Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Giorgio has become an important resource and support to staff members and families. Her knowledge, strong work ethic and congenial manner when working collaboratively with colleagues, with parents registering their children for school or assisting a staff member to navigate a State Education or district online system makes her a most valued member of the Bellmore Schools team. Mrs. Giorgio exemplifies the Bellmore Schools mission to Lead and Learn.

BRENTWOOD UFSD

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Jill Wolynetz

Jill Wolynetz is an alumni of Brentwood High School who does a great deal to uplift our community. Ms. Wolynetz has served as the president of Brentwood's SEPTA for five years. She helped to spearhead the district-wide Friendship Club Initiative, which fosters positive peer relationships between special needs students and general education students. She received a \$5,000 grant that initiated the construction of a handicapped playground at Pine Park Elementary School. In addition to her work with SEPTA, Ms. Wolynetz, is the head coach of the Junior Varsity Cheerleaders and a volunteer with U Sports and the Basketball Developmental League. Her cheerleading teams have competed at the local, regional and national level. The Brentwood community is better because of volunteers like Jill Wolynetz.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Eileen Felix

Eileen Felix has served as a trustee of the Brentwood Board of Education since 2015. She has also served as First Vice President of the Board for two years. Since serving on the Board, she has chaired the Academic Excellence Committee, where she has led many school improvement initiatives. Ms. Felix is extremely committed to the Brentwood community and to our students. She has been an active volunteer with the Green Machine marching band for many years. She has also been a member of SEPTA and during the past two years she has organized an annual Breast Cancer Awareness breakfast and forum. Ms. Felix is happily married to George, and she is the proud mother of two daughters and two sons and grandmother of one.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Gail Vlahoginis

Gail is truly Brentwood through and through. She was born and raised in Brentwood and continues to live here. Gail joined the Brentwood School District in 1998 as a substitute clerk typist. She quickly became a full-time clerk typist in the district's Instructional Media Center where she served for 17 years. She later transferred to the Purchasing Department as a Senior Office Assistant. Gail is the proud mother of Elena. Gail is active with Brentwood's budget development process and attends all Board of Education meetings. She generously volunteers with the Brentwood Historical Society. The Brentwood School District has been lucky to have Gail for the last 23 years. She goes above and beyond. Sincere thanks to Gail for her efforts and a job well done.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Diana Mikochik

Diana Mikochik has been a special education teacher at North Middle School since 2004. She currently serves as the SIT Committee Co-Chair and she is also a member of the school's Data Team, the school's Comprehensive Improvement Team, the District Special Education Committee and a delegate for the Brentwood Teacher's Association. Ms. Mikochik works hard to build connections with her students. Her former students frequently reach out to her for job references and support. Diana lives with her husband and two children. She has a 7-year-old daughter and a thirteen-year-old son. Brentwood is very proud to have Diana Mikochik. She is a teacher that always pushes our students to do their best and is willing to roll up her sleeves to help them realize their potential.

BRIDGEHAMPTON UFSD

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Elizabeth Whelan Kotz

Elizabeth Whelan Kotz has been a consistent advocate for the Bridgehampton School District for more years than we can count. She has always been an involved parent serving on the PTO and other voluntary positions throughout her children's school years. Elizabeth served on the Board of Education for nine years in various roles, including president, vice president and trustee. Elizabeth has served on the external Audit Committee for 15 years, currently as its Chairman. She has assisted at the annual budget vote, currently as our permanent chairperson. Her volunteer work outside the school includes serving on The Hampton Library Board for 15 years as president, treasurer and recording secretary. Elizabeth is also an EMT and was recently elected Commissioner of the Bridgehampton Fire District. It is for her steadfast love and dedication to her community that she shines above the rest.

Michael J. Cox

Michael Cox joined the Bridgehampton UFSD Administrative Team in January 2019. Mike jumped in with an enthusiasm and dedication that was evident from the start. He quickly became involved with District Data and worked endlessly to ensure all information was accurate and up-to-date. He serves on the Professional Development Team, as well as several other committees including Budget Advisory, Safety, Facilities and Grounds, Strategic Planning Council and Curriculum. But perhaps most important, is Mike's relationship with the staff and students alike. He consistently conducts himself in a professional manner that reflects his warmth, work ethic, integrity and honesty. And in this very challenging year, we were grateful for this most valued employee. It is for these reasons and so very many more, that he shines above the rest.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Markanthony Verzosa

Markanthony Verzosa has served on the Board of Education since July 2017 as a trustee. Prior to joining the Board, Mark had been and continues to be a very involved parent and served as the President of our Parent Teacher Organization. His service to the school in his role as trustee has been exemplary. He always has the students' welfare in mind in all of his decisions, ensuring they have the very best chance for success. Mark's professional experience as an architect provided numerous contributions to the expansion project and have been so very much appreciated. Mark's dedication and advocacy as a parent, trustee and community member is evident in everything he does. It is for this and so many other reasons that he shines above the rest.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Simone Sooklall

Simone Sooklall has worked for the Bridgehampton School District since 2014, first as a substitute, then a full-time teacher aide in the classroom. She then moved to the business office as our purchasing tech before her appointment as District Treasurer in 2018. Simone consistently exhibits a high level of dedication whether it's preparing statements for the school business administrator or preparing meals to hand out to our families during this COVID-19 school year. Her love for our students is demonstrated in so many ways and her involvement as a parent reflects that caring attitude for all. Simone is conscientious, caring, enthusiastic and determined no matter what the task at hand. Simone's light gleams brightly and for that and all of the above, she shines above the rest.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Michael Byrne

Michael Byrne has been a teacher at the Bridgehampton School District for more than 30 years. Mike has always proven to be a steadfast teacher with a demeanor that is calm and reassuring in the classroom. Mike served as the Elementary Student Council advisor from 2014 – 2015. His observations and evaluations unfailingly have shown him to be an effective teacher, with an ability to engage his students within the classroom. Mike consistently interacts with his colleagues, students, families and the public in a manner modeling the highest standards of honesty, integrity and ethics. He is proactive in advocating for students' needs and seeking resources when necessary, with his students' success as his primary goal. For these and so many other reasons, he shines above the rest.

CENTER MORICHES UFSD

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Jessica Knowles

Jessica Knowles has worked in Clayton Huey Elementary School in many capacities since 2003, yet she Shines Brightest in our main office since her permanent appointment more than three years ago. Jessica's positive and calming demeanor makes all of the students and staff feel as if they are in good hands. Jessica goes above and beyond to support all staff. Her organization and communication skills ensure students and staff are safe and supported.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Stacy Lopez

Stacy Lopez has been a teacher at Clayton Huey Elementary for 24 years. She is a dedicated educator

who is supportive of her colleagues, passionate about her craft, and most importantly, has an amazing, lasting impact on her students. Stacy often goes above and beyond for her students and their families, this is what makes her Shine Above the Rest.

CENTRAL ISLIP UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Lawrence S. Philips

Mr. Lawrence S. Philips plays an integral role in the Central Islip School District. He is Director of Physical Education, Health, Athletics and Health Services, and as COVID-19 Coordinator and Supervisor of Transportation, his leadership in this capacity working around the clock is unrivaled. Mr. Philips earned his Bachelor of Arts, Seton Hall University; Master of Arts, SUNY Stony Brook and Master of Science, College of New Rochelle. As a member of numerous organizations statewide, Mr. Philips' commitment to fostering relationships between the schools and a supportive community ensure student success, making him the consummate administrator. Mr. Philips and his wife, Mia, are proud parents of Jade who attends CUNY Baruch, and Dora who attends San Diego State University.

Matthew Providente

Mr. Matthew G. Providente is Central Islip School District's Director of Facilities III. He provides administrative direction to the facilities department, and has, since the advent of COVID-19, played a pivotal role working with stakeholders to develop and implement a reopening plan as the district maintains continuity in providing the best education in the safest environment possible. He procures and manages PPE stock, and works around the clock to ensure federal, state and county protocols, as well as district policies, are meticulously implemented. Mr. Providente assists the superintendent and school board in formulating policies related to buildings and grounds maintenance, and spearheads capital bond projects that garner community support. Mr. Providente attended SUNY Binghamton, and graduated with honors from SUNY Farmingdale, earning his Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology-Facilities Management, and a Masters in Construction Management.

Thomas Weiner

Mr. Thomas C. Weiner is Central Islip School District's Director of School Safety. He earned an M.S. in Human Resource Management & Industrial Labor Relations, NYIT, Old Westbury; B.S. in Business Management, SUNY Old Westbury; and A.S. in Accounting, St. John's University. Mr. Weiner came to Central Islip Schools in 2017 after serving 26 years with the New York State University Police. His extensive knowledge and experience make him an invaluable asset to our District. With an ability to implement effective school safety policies and related procedures, Mr. Wiener plays a key role in Central Islip School District working 24-7 to enforce CDC and Suffolk Health Department protocols as they relate to COVID-19.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Georgina Cramer

Ms. Georgina Cramer is a social worker at Central Islip High School. She earned her Masters in Social Work from Adelphi University, and came to the Central Islip School District in 1998. Ms. Cramer volunteers with Island Harvest. Her extensive humanitarian efforts working alongside her colleagues, help the community survive the pandemic. She reflects upon Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s quotation "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Ms. Cramer stated, "Every day I pray that I have what it takes to be a catalyst for positive change, and I thank God for being in the position to help someone in need."

COMMACK UFSD

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Jarrett Behar

Jarrett Behar is a Board of Education member who believes that every student in Commack should succeed and thrive. His actions and caring reflect his dedication to the children in this community. He chairs Commack's Vaping Committee and works with students, staff, and parents to fight substance

abuse and promote healthy life choices. He brings a strong commitment for fairness, and his expertise in legal matters is an added bonus to the Board. Now finishing his second term on the Board as Vice President, Jarrett is known Island-wide for his vast experience as a litigator and is the Director of the Suffolk County Bar Association. He was honored with NYSSBA's Board of Excellence Award for leadership development training. Jarrett has served on the PTA as a treasurer, budget co-chair, and budget rep. He received the PTA Founders Day Life Membership Award for his service to Commack's children and continues to be a well-respected and approachable presence in the community. Commack is proud to honor Mr. Behar with the SCOPE award for School Board Service.

ELWOOD UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Pamela Fine

Mrs. Fine is a caring and dedicated administrator who has served as a classroom teacher, staff developer, assistant principal, principal, and director of humanities. Knowledgeable in many areas, she has played an integral role in the planning and implementation of programs such as Teachers College and academic vocabulary across the content areas. Mrs. Fine is an advocate for all students, particularly addressing the needs of struggling students. She is a creative thinker and problem solver. Mrs. Fine knows students and families personally; she works tirelessly to help students overcome barriers to success. She has sponsored student initiatives such as the Beautiful Me Program and family activities such as ENL Night and the STEAM Fair. She is a true shining star of the Elwood School District.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Scott Gross

Dr. Scott Gross has served as Elwood's district physician for the past 19 years. While Dr. Gross has been a presence at school events and athletics for many years, never have his services been as vitally important as they have over the last year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, Dr. Gross has served as an active member of the district's Reopening Committee and a trusted medical advisor to the board, administration, school nurses and community. Throughout this challenging time, Dr. Gross has made certain the Elwood School District is fully informed regarding recommendations from the medical community and resources that are available to assist in keeping students, faculty and staff safe. We are extremely thankful for his care, concern, dedication and compassion.

SUPPORT STAFF AWARD

Lumbert Slade

Dedicated, caring, professional and positive are words commonly associated with Mr. Lumbert Slade, aka Slade. Slade began his career as a security staff member at JGHS in 2015, after serving as correction officer at Rikers Island for 28 years. Slade is one of the first people who students, families, and staff members see as they enter JGHS. He welcomes every person with his infectious smile, positivity, and offers blessings for a great day. Slade is a gentle giant who treats everyone he encounters with dignity and respect. He has an uncanny ability to build relationships with students, staff, and community members. His proactive approach helps to maintain a safe environment for our students and staff. He is a true role model and integral member of the JGHS staff.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Lisa Friend

Mrs. Friend has been a master teacher in the Elwood School District for 20 years. Mrs. Friend is an innovative and skilled teacher that utilizes best pedagogical practices. She is constantly learning and adding to her repertoire, in order to provide her students with a curriculum that is challenging and engaging. Outside of the classroom, Mrs. Friend has proven to be dedicated to the Elwood school community as a whole. She serves as a leader on her grade level team and has served on various committees, such as BOE Curriculum Committee, District AIS Committee, The Cultural Competency Committee and the COVID Building Emergency Committee. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mrs. Friend worked tirelessly to assist the teachers in transitioning to remote learning. In addition to these leadership roles, Mrs. Friend serves as the Vice President of the Elwood Teachers' Alliance where she has worked collaboratively with the administration to ensure that Elwood teachers and administrators have a positive relationship that focuses on what is best for the children. The Elwood School District is fortunate to honor a person of her caliber in our school community.

FRANKLIN SQUARE UFSD

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Pamela Greenfield

Pamela Greenfield proudly served the Franklin Square School District since 1989. Pam first started her career in the district as a bus driver. Shortly thereafter, in 2006, Pam became the Transportation Director. Pam treated students, staff and drivers as family members. Pam worked tirelessly for the families of the Franklin Square School District. She is credited with improving our routing, upgrading our buses, and putting protocols in place to keep our students and drivers safe. Pam was planning on retiring in March 2021, to spend more time with her loving husband, Butch, and beautiful daughter, Trish. Sadly, Pam passed away in January 2021. The entire community is saddened by this profound loss. We celebrate Pam's life and her many contributions to our district.

FREEPORT UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Vincent Pereira

Dr. Vincent Pereira has been the Director of Science at Freeport Schools since 2009. Dr. Pereira's vast knowledge and love for science is evident in his enthusiasm for his subject. Under his leadership, students are provided exceptional opportunities including communicating with the International Space Station, creating a CubeSat experiment, interacting with a Nobel Laureate physicist, and nanotechnology research. Dr. Pereira has fostered numerous partnerships with notable universities and NASA providing our students with extraordinary mentorships and prestigious recognitions including the Intel Science Competition. He supports a Science Research program and laboratory with university-level research equipment. Dr. Pereira's love of science is shared by all our students who enthusiastically participate in STEAM activities. Freeport Schools is fortunate for all Dr. Pereira does for our students.

Mary Garguilo

Mary Garguilo began her career with Freeport Schools in 1993. She has been the principal of Bayview Avenue School for the past four years. Mary started as a teaching assistant, teacher and assistant principal. Mary is super organized, dedicated, hardworking and her passion for children and education is at the core of everything she does. She approaches everything with patience, kindness and a sense of humor. Mary is a great support for the children and families of Bayview, an amazing leader for her staff and a wonderful resource for her colleagues. Mary truly embraces the idea of educating the whole child and goes above and beyond to ensure her students have what they need to succeed. Freeport Schools thanks Mary for being a true Changemaker.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Gabriela Castillo

Gabriela Castillo has served on the Board of Education for Freeport Schools since 2019. As a graduate of Freeport Schools and a Freeport parent, she is a strong advocate for students and families and believes deeply in providing the best possible educational opportunities in a fiscally responsible manner. Ms. Castillo is an attorney and Government Affairs Liaison for Nassau County. Ms. Castillo remains current on educational issues through active participation in the New York State School Boards Association and advocates for equity in education with a keen interest in policy and providing equal prospects and supports for students in communities of color. Ms. Castillo has been an active member of the Freeport Latino Leaders Group. Freeport Schools appreciates Ms. Castillo's steadfast commitment to our school and community.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Russell Simpkins

Russell Simpkins started his Freeport Public Schools career as a food service worker in 2016 and by 2019 had worked his way up to Cook Manager at Freeport High School. Russell goes above and beyond to ensure the children of Freeport High School receive well-balanced, delicious meals, daily. He is an exuberant personality who is enthusiastic and shows pride in his work. Russell gives more of himself beyond the school day and is a well-known presence at various district events. During the school closure due to COVID-19, Russell was one of our true Superstars providing Grab and Go Meals

to our families with a smile. Freeport Public Schools is appreciative of all Russell Simpkins does for our school community.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Eileen Shultis

Eileen Shultis began her career with Freeport Schools as a business teacher at Freeport High School in 2002 and has been a powerhouse since then. In addition to setting high expectations for the students in her classes, Eileen is the advisor for the National Honor Society, Freeport Leadership Club and the Chess Club, coaches the Varsity Bowling teams and serves as the Treasurer for Extra Curricular activities. Eileen is organized, energetic and advocates for her students. She is a wonderful resource for her colleagues and the families of Freeport. Eileen is a true Changemaker whose passion for education and enthusiasm as a lifelong learner shines through in everything she does. Freeport Schools appreciates all that Eileen does to support our students and their growth.

GARDEN CITY UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Rita Melikian

As we began to face the challenges of the pandemic, Dr. Melikian quickly prepared the district for school closure and remote instruction. This transition encompassed technology tools/equipment and extensive professional development on how to transition every aspect of our work, from teaching and learning to operational items done remotely. The work was extensive and impactful on so many levels. We could not have gotten through this year without her strong leadership and commitment to our district. Her dedication to our entire school community never wavers. She is always kind and patient and never hesitates to assist wherever needed. She does an excellent job in elevating and tailoring learning experiences for administrators and teachers. Dr. Melikian truly makes a difference at Garden City Public Schools. She personifies the district's motto Inspiring Minds, Empowering Achievement and Building Community.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Lauren Maguire

Lauren Maguire, our integration technology specialist, is the epitome of a master teacher and a life-long learner who is universally respected, trusted and admired by teachers and administrators alike. She has earned this trust through her tireless work with our teachers and administrators in the effective use of technology for instruction, communication, collaboration, and creativity. A teacher in Garden City Schools for the past 25 years, Lauren brings a wide range of teaching and professional development expertise to her role as the technology integration coach. Her years of leading technology integration in Garden City came into fruition when we had to switch to remote learning this past spring. She played a key leadership role in getting remote learning off the ground for our students during the COVID-19 school closure, as well as during the 2020-2021 school year for our hybrid and remote classes. Our teachers have been able to continue teaching in-person and remotely in no small measure because of Lauren's support and dedication.

GLEN COVE CITY SD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Antonio Santana

Glen Cove is fortunate to have Antonio Santana as, not only an educator, but as the President of the Glen Cove Administrators' Association. His unwavering commitment to the children of Glen Cove was unmistakably evident during a year without pause; one of constant changes based on Executive Orders. His leadership exemplified cooperative partnership as we worked for the education and social emotional support of our students and staff. It is with great appreciation of our administrators and their efforts that we recognize their president.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Mary Murphy

Recognition for commitment to a school district is usually associated with years as a teacher, administrator, or in a district. Mary Murphy is being recognized for devoting her adult life, professionally and

personally, to the Glen Cove School District community. With little respite, she returned to extend her contribution to the community as a Board Trustee. Although a woman of few words, her's is always the voice of reason. It is only fitting that we celebrate her commitment as a fair, caring and considerate member of our district and community.

Rose Sekelsky

After 38 years of service to the Glen Cove School District community, Rose Sekelsky retired as principal of the Connolly School. Her contribution as an educator has had an impact on all of those who have passed through Connolly's halls. She instilled a love of learning and pride in one's actions. Rose's dedication to the school community didn't end with her retirement in 2017. Instead, she stepped up to serve the community as a Board Trustee. We honor her for her commitment to children and education; past, present and future.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Karen Ayala

Pre-COVID-19 pandemic schedules have always been routine, rarely wavering, mostly predictable. Last year, schedules became nonexistent, all of the tasks of a school district still very much connected to a schedule and it's timelines. Actually, timelines became fluid and additional tasks under unprecedented conditions became commonplace. The commitment of this individual surpassed all expectations to the point of almost taking advantage of her loyalty and work ethic. For this reason, Karen Ayala represents all that is good among our school district community and specifically the clerical unit.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Alison Fletcher

Glen Cove is fortunate to have Alison Fletcher as both an educator and President of the Glen Cove Teachers' Association. As a teacher first and foremost, Ms. Fletcher demonstrates a commitment to excellence and care for the achievement of all children. Alison exemplifies true professionalism and commitment. As the union president, she has worked collaboratively with the district to ensure that students and teachers were appropriately supported as instruction took on new meaning. It is with great appreciation of our teachers and their efforts that we recognize their president.

GREAT NECK UFSD

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Donald L. Ashkenase

Mr. Ashkenase was elected to his first three-year term on the Board of Education in 1982, and he was re-elected 12 times by his fellow residents. His 39-year tenure as a trustee is the longest in Great Neck's history. His leadership on the board included five years as vice president and two years as president. Mr. Ashkenase was a champion for children and his contributions to the district cannot be overestimated. His support for academic programs and his continuity of service has benefited generations of Great Neck students, including his own three children and two grandchildren. Sadly, Mr. Ashkenase passed away suddenly on March 8, 2021, leaving behind a legacy of dedicated service to our students, our staff, and the entire school community. We are forever grateful for Mr. Ashkenase's unparalleled service and leadership, and his memory won't soon be forgotten.

HALF HOLLOW HILLS UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Debra A. Ferry

Ms. Deb Ferry, the District Director of Interscholastic Athletics, volunteered to support the students, staff and community of Half Hollow Hills during the COVID-19 pandemic by taking on a new role as one of the district's COVID Coordinators. Ferry quickly pivoted from managing the athletics program, to becoming a trained contact tracer, liaison with the local health department, and point person for building administrators in their reporting of positive cases. Her contributions to the district during the pandemic have been vast and vital, working tirelessly and sacrificing her own time to make student and staff safety a priority.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Roseann Miceli

Ms. Roseann Miceli, LMSW, has been the executive director of REACH CYA for over 21 years, helping lead them on the delivery of their mission to provide social, recreational, educational and advocacy programs for children, youth and families of Commack and Half Hollow Hills. During the pandemic, Roseann Miceli has overseen the tremendous outreach and distribution of critical aid to at-need members of the Half Hollow Hills community. REACH CYA has offered free virtual after-school programming for secondary students, overseen community service clubs that carry out projects and activities to benefit the community, and directly delivered food, gift cards, toys and supplies to those in need.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Eric Geringswald

Mr. Eric Geringswald, the President of the Half Hollow Hills Board of Education, has served the members of the community as a trustee since 2009, making him the longest-serving member of the current board. Geringswald has been a leader during the COVID-19 pandemic, working with district administration to help keep their students and staff safe and healthy. He has also pulled from his experience in private business as a compliance officer to guide the district's development and rollout of many important policies. Geringswald is a proud graduate of Half Hollow Hills, an active member of the community, and leader in local athletics programs including the Hills Youth Lacrosse.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Victor Derosa

Mr. Victor DeRosa, the maintenance foreman for the Half Hollow Hills Central School District since 2018, went above and beyond during the pandemic to ensure the district's facilities were functioning safely. While many people were working remotely from home during the early months of the pandemic, DeRosa was at work every day maintaining the district's fifteen buildings. This builds on his already existing amazing work ethic, as he tackles projects on his way in to work and on his way home, and is the first one on the scene if a building loses power or if there is an emergency. DeRosa previously served as a maintenance mechanic in the district, and joined Half Hollow Hills after having run his own business as a licensed electrician.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Mary P. Byrnes

Ms. Mary Byrnes has been a kindergarten and second grade teacher at Signal Hill Elementary for more than 17 years, and is loved by her students, their families and her peers. Former students and alumni have credited her with making a major impact on their lives during their early childhood education. Byrnes started her career in the district at Vanderbilt Elementary School as a kindergarten paraprofessional and then a long-term substitute teacher. In 2015, she started the Cody L. Byrnes Memorial Foundation in honor of her son, and each year she funds scholarships to deserving Half Hollow Hills student-athletes in his memory.

HAMPTON BAYS UFSD

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Minerva Perez

As Executive Director of OLA, Minerva Perez is focused on securing resources, advocacy and community-building on behalf of the Hispanic community on Eastern Long Island. Her work ensures that families have the support they need to build a successful, healthy and safe life in our region. Her work with local police departments fosters connections between ethnic communities and throughout the pandemic, OLA secured millions of dollars in equipment and WiFi to bridge the digital divide for all students who were locked down at home. Currently, OLA is focused on the social emotional needs of our Hispanic/Latino youth and how to direct resources for their support. On behalf of the east end schools, Minerva Perez and her team are a critical part of the success of our schools and students.

Rebecca Sanin

The HWCLI unites Long Island non-profits in supporting communities and families in need. As leader, Rebecca's passion to serve the "least and last among us" fuels an entire organization focused on women's rights, food insecurity, dignity in housing, education, health care and more. In 2020, Rebecca's

leadership galvanized Long Island to ensure a complete count in the 2020 Census. Bringing together schools, houses of worship, the business community, non-profits and local government, this work lasted more than a year and was focused on ensuring that every person on Long Island was counted and knew they count. For schools, that means billions of dollars in support for programs that support children. On behalf of Hampton Bays and ESBOCES, we are grateful for her leadership in ensuring that Long Island thrives.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

ANDY FOTOPoulos

Andy Fotopoulos is a teacher, coach, advisor, advocate and teacher association president who embodies the term partner. In all things Hampton Bays, Andy's presence and contributions are known. Focused on students, he often book-ended the day – last to leave. On the volleyball court, he developed leaders. In class, he attracted students from every walk of life and in his clubs, he brought students around the world to grow and experience. As the teachers association president, Andy was always focused on solving problems and promoting the profession in a way that deserved respect and delivered success. As Andy plans to retire, the Hampton Bays Public Schools thanks him for his service to the community, to our students and to our profession and congratulates him.

HARBORFIELDS UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Maureen Raynor

Maureen Raynor started at the Harborfields Central School District as a high school mathematics teacher. Maureen's innate leadership skills were quickly realized and she rose through the ranks to her current role as assistant superintendent. Maureen is being nominated for this award because her leadership during the past year has guided our Harborfields Family through the unprecedented times of our current global pandemic. Through it all, Maureen has demonstrated compassion and strength when our staff and community needed it most. She worked tirelessly through ever-changing guidance and regulations to support our staff, our students and their families in making sure that they had the answers to all of their questions. It is a pleasure to nominate Maureen for this well-deserved recognition.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Jessica Lowenhar

It is a pleasure to nominate Ms. Jessica Lowenhar for this special recognition. Jessica has served the students of Harborfields as a music teacher at Oldfield Middle School for the past 22 years. As both a district employee and a district resident, Jessica understands the importance of giving back to our community. As vice president of the United Teachers of Harborfields, Jessica coordinates their charitable organization, Jeans for a Cause. This year, the organization is on track to raise and distribute more than \$10,000 in funds that go directly to needy Harborfields families. Jessica's coordination has directly impacted the lives of our Harborfields families. We are so grateful for Jessica's efforts and we are proud to nominate her for this special recognition.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

HARBORFIELDS BOARD OF EDUCATION

It is with tremendous appreciation that this well-deserved recognition is provided to the Board of Education of the Harborfields Central School District. The leadership of our board has been instrumental to the success of the district as we strive for excellence in all aspects of our operation. Like all schools districts, we have faced significant challenges as a result of the global pandemic and the members of our Board of Education have been there for our community in so many ways and they are very deserving of this recognition. The Harborfields school community is proud to recognize, Suzie Lustig, President; Joseph C. Savaglio, Vice President; Steven Engelmann, Christopher Kelly, Hansen Lee, David Steinberg and Colleen Wolcott. Thank you for your selfless service to our schools.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Lynda Abner

It is with great pleasure that we nominate Ms. Lynda Abner for this well-deserved recognition. Lynda's work ethic is exceptional and she is always readily available to offer assistance to all staff. Lynda has an outstanding rapport with staff and continually goes above and beyond to ensure that projects are com-

pleted successfully and efficiently. She is always willing to work and share ideas in order to solve problems and situations that arise. Lynda works closely with the entire office staff to ensure the appropriate work is in place. She is always kind and sensitive and it is a true pleasure to work with a professional of Lynda's caliber. Lynda is a dedicated professional that takes pride in her work.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Susan Turrini

It is an honor to nominate Ms. Susan Turrini for this special recognition. If you were to ask Susan her thoughts on this, she would surely say that all teachers deserve special recognition, especially in recent times. Susan is being recognized for her leadership and unwavering support of teachers during the past year. As president of the United Teachers of Harborfields, Susan has been a member of almost every committee and meeting related to our district's reopening plan and has been instrumental in the success of our instructional model. In her 27th year with the district, Ms. Turrini continues to love each of her students as if they were her own and will stop at nothing to ensure they reach their highest potential.

HEWLETT-WOODMERE UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Amanda Kavanagh

Mrs. Kavanagh joined the district in 2016 and has not stopped moving since. Her contributions to the HW community are far too vast to encapsulate in just 125 words. She is a dynamic, energetic, and creative team player who goes above and beyond every single day. Her leadership throughout the pandemic has been nothing short of extraordinary. Thanks to her forward thinking, the district was poised and ready to implement an online learning program last spring that allowed a seamless instructional transition. Mrs. Kavanagh executed a drive-through device pick-up program for students in need, personally trained teachers on the latest instructional technology, and developed a critically important new IT support request system.

Kathleen Granelli

Ms. Granelli has been an incredible asset to Hewlett-Woodmere since joining the district in January 2019. Her outstanding contributions were exceeded this year considering the challenges faced during the ongoing pandemic. The district had numerous staffing inconsistencies in the fall and Ms. Granelli stepped in to assist at each building in need. She trained a new psychologist to run CSE meetings, oversee the department in her building, and meet the needs of the students. Ms. Granelli was present in each building, overseeing initial IEP implementation, and even assisting with building supervision when quarantines led to administrative absences. Ms. Granelli brings faculty and parents together to creatively ensure students' needs are met in the least restrictive environment, working towards the common goal of student success.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Melissa Gates

Melissa Gates has been a HWPS Board of Education member since 2012, serving as vice president from 2018-2020. Mrs. Gates grew up in the Hewlett-Woodmere community and has always advocated for children, having served in many PTA roles, including Central Council co-president. Mrs. Gates serves on several board committees: Legislative, Communications, and Public and Private Schools. Recently, she was Chairperson of the Policy Committee. She enthusiastically participates in the HS Book Trials and Interview Day. Melissa is always available to assist the music department and has never missed a concert or art show. Melissa is an Executive Committee member of Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association, the recipient of NYSSBA's School Board Excellence Award, and actively participates in School Boards at the state and national level.

ISLAND PARK UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Bruce Hoffman

Dr. Bruce Hoffman is Principal of Lincoln Orens Middle School in the Island Park UFSD and has served in this role for the past four years. Dr. Hoffman went above and beyond during the spring 2020 school building closures to ensure continuity of instruction for all students. He was instrumental in making sure that all students received instructional materials and computing devices, while attending to their social and emotional needs during this difficult time period. Dr. Hoffman's efforts did not wane as we moved to bring all students back to five days per week instruction, requiring a plasticity rarely seen in building leaders. He was a true leader in managing the pandemic restrictions, while remaining laser focused on improving teaching and learning for all.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Anthony P. D'Esposito

Councilman Anthony P. D'Esposito is the 4th District Council Member of the Town of Hempstead, which represents the Island Park community since 2016. Councilman D'Esposito went above and beyond during the spring 2020 school building closures by providing the district with access to the Town of Hempstead Show Mobile and Shell Creek Park for outdoor events, including graduation and moving-up ceremonies. When the school district was faced with the mounting costs of operating schools during a pandemic, the Councilman and other Town Officials sprung into action by reimbursing school districts for personal protective equipment (PPE) and other pandemic related costs through the CARES Act funds. Councilman D'Esposito is truly committed to serving the students and families of Island Park.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Jack Vobis

Mr. Jack Vobis is the President of the Island Park UFSD Board of Education and has served in this role for the past five years. Mr. Vobis went above and beyond during the spring 2020 school building closures by providing support to the district administration and serving as an indispensable liaison to the community. Mr. Vobis' tireless efforts and leadership helped the district adapt to the many unknown and ever-changing challenges of operating schools during a pandemic. Throughout the pandemic, Mr. Vobis has remained committed to fiscal responsibility, while ensuring that every child has the digital resources and materials they need to be successful. His leadership of the Board of Education has been a driving force in meeting the academic, social and emotional needs of our students.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Kelly Angelo

Ms. Kelly Angelo is the Island Park UFSD Transportation Supervisor and has served in this role for the past two years. In her role as department head, Ms. Angelo went above and beyond during the spring 2020 school building closures to route the delivery of instructional materials and devices to individual student homes. She ran the transportation department from her home, making herself available to district/building administrators, monitors and drivers at a moment's notice. In our return to in-person, five days per week instruction, Ms. Angelo was instrumental in constructing multiple iterations of our routes to ensure that students were transported safely to school with all pandemic restrictions in place. Ms. Angelo's herculean efforts ensured safe and healthy transportation for our students during this unprecedented time.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Patricia Pozin

Mrs. Patricia Pozin has been an educator in the Island Park UFSD for the past 35 years, serving as the Island Park Faculty Association President for the past two years. During the school building closure of spring 2020, she provided continuity of instruction for her students while attending to their social and emotional needs. Mrs. Pozin was instrumental in securing volunteers for our reopening committee and herself served selflessly to ensure the health, safety and security of all the faculty, staff and students in the district. Throughout this school year, she has remained a collaborative member of the district, serving on our Community-Based Councils to develop our three-year strategic plan and working closely with building and district administration to ensure the safe return of students to five day in-person instruction. Mrs. Pozin remains committed to the students, families and faculty of the Island Park UFSD.

ISLIP UFSD

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Donna Bushelon

Donna Bushelon has worked for the Islip Schools for more than 30 years. Starting in July 1989 as a part-time switchboard operator, she established herself as a full-time receptionist, as well as taking on many other clerical tasks over the years. Currently, she manages retiree benefits. A district resident, Donna seemingly knows everyone and greets those who come to central office by name. Her children are all Islip graduates, and her knowledge of institutional history is unparalleled. She is the go-to person for questions involving former employees or district events. Visitors to our administration building are always greeted with her warm smile and welcomed for a quick chat. Donna's positive attitude and sunny disposition help make Islip feel like a small town and certainly makes it feel like home.

Michelle Hickey

Michelle Hickey has been a valued Islip team member for more than 13 years. From her position in our human resources office, she has assisted all of our employees. Michelle has a kind and gentle manner, and her quiet demeanor has endeared her to us all. Michelle's naturally optimistic nature has contributed to her drive to celebrate our employees. She often schedules mini birthday celebrations and arrives with treats on a regular basis. She is also our in-house photographer. Michelle has documented all special events with her photographs and serves as our in-house historian. Michelle will be retiring at the end of this school year, and she will be sorely missed.

KINGS PARK CSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Karen Lessler

Dr. Karen Lessler has been employed by the Kings Park CSD since 2002 when she became a social studies teacher at the William T. Rogers Middle School. She has served as middle school social studies Lead Teacher, and she is currently in her third year as Assistant Principal at Kings Park High School. She has also served as Vice President of the Kings Park Classroom Teachers Association, Board President of the Middle Country CSD, and an Adjunct Professor at Suffolk Community College. Dr. Lessler is an excellent communicator and a very strong leader. She has developed a very full emotional bank account with the students at the high school and with the Kings Park Community. She is a highly respected member of our Leadership Team in Kings Park.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Sylvia Bastone

Sylvia Bastone founded New Beginnings of Kings Park in 2012. What originally only occupied a few classrooms on the first floor of the San Remo Administrative Building, has expanded to include the entire first floor of the building. New Beginnings has developed a great, symbiotic relationship with the school district over the years. Because about half of our incoming kindergarteners attend New Beginnings, we work closely together in areas including curriculum. New Beginnings provides an essential service for many parents in Kings Park, and no time in recent history was more important as during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to Sylvia's leadership, New Beginnings was able to re-open last spring and remain open to the present day. Many families in the Kings Park Community relied on this service so that they could go to work and provide for their family.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Dave Guichard

Dave Guichard has worked for the Kings Park CSD as a bus mechanic since 2006. He is a highly respected member of our transportation team in Kings Park. He is also the President of the local CSEA Union, which has more than 225 members, all with widely varied job responsibilities. Mr. Guichard does a Yeoman's job ensuring that his unit members are treated professionally and fairly. He is highly collaborative and a good compromiser. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Guichard's efforts and leadership were instrumental to our success as a school district. He worked very closely with the Transportation Department and with central office administration to ensure that our schools and buses were running smoothly. He is a highly valued leader in Kings Park.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Kathleen Cumming

Kathleen Cumming has served as the Lead Reading Teacher in Kings Park since 2013 and a Reading Intervention Specialist since 2000. She began her teaching career in Kings Park in 1994 as an elementary teacher. She is a passionate reading teacher with a strong vision to provide intervention services to struggling readers. She is a highly respected member of our academic intervention services team in Kings Park. Her principal describes her as ...an exceptional reading instructor and leader. She is a highly valued and revered resource in the area of literacy instruction for faculty, staff, and administration. Kings Park CSD has been extremely fortunate to have Mrs. Cumming in this important leadership role.

LEVITTOWN UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

John Zampaglione

John Zampaglione has been an administrator in the Levittown Public School District for more than 20 years, serving as a Chairperson for the science department at Wisdom Lane Middle School, an Assistant Principal at MacArthur High School, and is currently serving as the Principal of Jonas Salk Middle school since 2007. As the building leader, Mr. Zampaglione's contributions to Salk Middle School are immeasurable. He has developed and established the school's character education program, R.I.S.E, which earned Salk the honor of being recognized as a National School of Character by Character.org. in 2016, and again in 2020. In addition, under the leadership of Mr. Zampaglione, Jonas Salk was also designated as a New York State School-to-Watch by the New York State Education Department in partnership with the New York State Middle School Association.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Michael Gurrera

Mike Gurrera was a key component to the success of the Levittown Food Pantry during the Coronavirus pandemic. His selfless acts helped feed thousands of Levittown and Nassau County families from March 16, 2020-June 30, 2020. Mike volunteered his time to supervise the distribution line that loaded food into the trunks and backseats of cars each Tuesday morning and Thursday evening. At the height of the pandemic the pantry serviced 600 cars per night and had people lining up for food three hours prior to its opening. Mike's service didn't stop with food, he gave children in cars small gifts, teens in cars candy and even helped jumpstart a half of dozen cars that broke down while waiting. Mike epitomized community service as many were scared to come out of their house.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Christina Lang

Christine Lang has been an active member of the Levittown School District for the past five years. She is an advocate for all children focusing on a holistic approach to education. She is an AP Spanish teacher in a neighboring school district. She has gone through intense training to be an AP assessor. Her passion for foreign language has led to her to become a supporter of the FLES program. Mrs. Lang is a knowledgeable person who demonstrates integrity and thoughtfulness in all Board decisions. Mrs. Lang is a true asset to the Levittown Public Schools.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

James Tosner

Jimmy Tosner has been an asset to the Levittown School District for 30 years. His hard work and dedication in maintaining the district's eleven school buildings has ensured the health and wellbeing of each student, staff, and community member that has entered the doors over the last 30 years. He has risen above the occasion on so many situations that we have lost count. The Levittown School District is honored to have him as our maintenance supervisor.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Laurette Nally

Laurette Nally's number one priority is family. By that she means her immediate family, her extended family, her school family and the Levittown community, where she has lived and worked for 2 ½ decades. She has dedicated herself to nurturing and challenging her students, while also providing great

support to their families. Additionally, Laurette has mentored the teachers of Levittown, both new to education and those just seeking good advice. She is a well-respected, knowledgeable, and supportive colleague, representing teachers on district committees and as a building representative for the Levittown United Teachers. Within the community, she has been a liaison for the Big Dragons/Little Dragons Tutoring and Mentoring Program between Division Avenue High School students and Summit Lane Elementary students. Laurette goes above and beyond in everything.

LINDENHURST

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Michael Van Wart

In addition to the responsibilities held as the district's Assistant Business Administrator and Data Protection Officer, in August 2020, Michael Van Wart assumed the role of COVID-19 Safety Coordinator for the Lindenhurst Union Free School District. This was a role without precedent, that required him to not only familiarize himself thoroughly with the New York State safety guidelines, but stay abreast of all of the subsequent changes made to those guidelines over the coming months, while simultaneously ensuring that the district remained in compliance and informed. He was also tasked with leading the charge on all COVID-19 related contact tracing investigations, inquiries and required reporting to the local and state health authorities. Additionally, Mr. Van Wart has been instrumental in the organization and implementation of COVID-19 testing for our high-risk athletes. The district owes a debt of gratitude to Michael for his commitment and dedication to the students, staff and families of Lindenhurst.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Cynthia Morales

Cynthia Morales has been a special education teacher in the Lindenhurst UFSD since 2013. During that time, she has spent the vast majority of her teaching career as a key contributor to the success of our 8:1:1 Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program at Daniel Street Elementary School. Ms. Morales' creativity, dedication and hard work has enabled her to forge strong relationships with her students and families. Some of the accomplishments of Ms. Morales include: procuring a Project Lifesaver bracelet for her students through the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, organizing field trips to the Riverhead Aquarium, participating and assisting with the Games for the Physically Challenged, assisting in the development of a Middle School ABA program, providing home based support services for families and finding innovative ways to meet the needs of her diverse student population. Ms. Morales is a passionate, empathetic and caring educator who routinely goes above and beyond for the students of Lindenhurst.

LONG BEACH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

KAREN SAUTER

Karen Sauter has been principal of Lindell School for the past 20 years and has been a part of the Long Beach School District for the past 36 years. Few people have had as great an impact on as many students as Mrs. Sauter has. She has also been a great mentor to fellow administrators, and a true friend to all. As she retires this year, we recognize her extraordinary service. Her kindness, enthusiasm, and real love of learning have made an indelible mark on Lindell School and on all the students whose lives she has touched.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Kyle Swan And All Long Beach Public Schools Food Service Workers

In only his second year as Director of Food Services at Long Beach Public Schools, Kyle Swan was faced with an enormous challenge. In a district where more than 30% of our students qualify for meal assistance, we knew that the extended lockdown last spring meant that some of our students lacked basic nutritional needs. Mr. Swan and his staff rose to the occasion, setting up mobile meal pickups, and recruiting volunteers to deliver food to homes. They worked tirelessly throughout the summer to make sure our students had enough to eat, partnering with the PTA and local community agencies to also provide dinners. During a very difficult time in our history, Mr. Swan and our food service workers were true heroes to our neediest students.

MATTITUCK-CUTCHOGUE UFSD

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Jennifer Nemschick

Jennifer Nemschick is the current President of the Mattituck-Cutchogue Athletic Booster Club. Jennifer volunteers endless hours to support the student athletes of our school district, all while being on the front lines during this pandemic as a health care worker. Her dedication to bringing back some normalcy for the athletes during this time have included many creative ways of celebrating our children. Her efforts can be seen throughout the community. She runs the concession stand for home contests, distributed door-to-door senior awards, and organizes the senior athlete award ceremonies. She is always advocating for every child and every team, often saying she never want them to miss out on anything. The Mattituck Booster-Club, student-athletes and community are better because of her.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Bianca Munguia

Bianca Munguia, greeter at Cutchogue East Elementary School, is the face of the school, greeting students and families. Bianca is the first one visitors go to, which means that she sees everyone at their best and worst. She is a professional who accepts new responsibilities and steps into new roles. Bianca is bilingual, which is an asset with our Spanish speaking families and children. Her skills were even more apparent when we were remote last year. Bianca maintained daily contact with families and assisted them through these ever-changing times. This year, with all of the procedural changes we have in place, Bianca is the one who families go to when they need assistance. Bianca is an inspiration to all.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Virginia Beebe

Mrs. Virginia Beebe has been a mathematics teacher at Mattituck Junior-Senior High School for thirty-two years and has led the department as the mathematics coordinator for the last six years. During that time, she has created a collaborative and innovative environment amongst her mathematics colleagues, that has greatly benefited our students. As the challenges associated with COVID-19 closed school last spring, Mrs. Beebe set an example for all teachers at MHS as she presented live and engaging lessons to all of her classes each and every day. She became a resource to teachers and a savoir to students and parents as she worked tirelessly to provide the best education possible under the most challenging of circumstances.

NASSAU BOCES

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Michael Flood

For more than 20 years, Michael Flood has been a valued member of the Nassau BOCES Facilities Services Department. He is the maintenance supervisor for more than one million square feet of space across Nassau BOCES numerous campuses throughout Nassau County. Mr. Flood's extensive professional knowledge and maintenance experience have proven invaluable. His support was instrumental in the development of the agency's COVID-19 reopening plan and in preparing our buildings for the return of staff, students and visitors to safe and clean facilities. He is an asset to the agency.

Peter LaDuca

For more than 30 years, Peter LaDuca has been the go-to expert in health and safety for school district leaders throughout Nassau County. That has never been more apparent or valued than during the COVID-19 pandemic. He worked closely with all 56 school districts as they navigated the many phases of the pandemic. He helped to develop the Nassau BOCES reopening plan and weighed in on the plans of many school districts. Superintendents and district leaders contact Mr. LaDuca 24 hours/7 days a week when they need assistance. He is the liaison with the Nassau County Department of Health and the Nassau County Police Department during any crises, including fires, hurricanes, and other emergency events. The districts benefit from his guidance, trainings, and compliance plans.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Deborah Coates

Deborah Coates embodies everything this award is about – energy, passion, devotion and leadership. She is a selfless advocate of Nassau County schools and a champion of equity in education for both children and adults. Ms. Coates joined the BOCES Board in 2008, after serving on the East Meadow UFSD Board from 2002 to 2008. In East Meadow, she served terms as president and vice president. She served as president and first vice president of Reform Education Financial Inequities Today (REFIT), a consortium of school districts working to secure a fair and equitable share of New York State Aid to Long Island schools. In addition, she has also served on the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association's Executive Committee.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Catherine Breuer

Catherine Breuer is an integral member of the Nassau BOCES Adult Career and Technical Education Program. Since joining Nassau BOCES in 2007, she has approached her work with professionalism and is a model for other staff members. One of her main roles is the continued maintenance of student and course records. She continually seeks to expand her knowledge of the student management system. In addition, she takes initiative and is always ready to step in to assist with any task. Through her consistent efforts, she has helped to grow the program's enrollment.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Kathryn Moleti

Kathryn Moleti is an individual who is counted on by administration and continues to be a driving force and advocate for the vision and mission of the Robert Williams School. She is committed to professional growth and maintains professional ethics, and effective communication. Her actions continuously result in positive student outcomes and achievement. She consistently collaborates with the school community to promote and provide professional learning opportunities for all the staff members of Robert Williams. She has assumed many crucial roles at Robert Williams in addition to her curriculum and technology responsibilities. Ms. Moleti is an asset to the Robert Williams community, she serves a supportive role, and is a resource for administration, teachers, students, and the Robert Williams Community in its entirety.

NEW HYDE PARK-GARDEN CITY PARK UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Kim Levy

Kim Levy is Director of Special Education since 2013. She is responsible for our excellent special education programs, bringing special class programs to the district that had previously been outsourced. She supervises PPS staff, school nurses, and health services for our schools. This year, Ms. Levy has been a leader in the creation and implementation of the district's reopening plan. Ms. Levy kept our schools safe on a daily basis. She became our resident expert on Covid-19 guidelines and liaison to the Department of Health. Ms. Levy has made herself available to help at all hours of the day and night. In addition, she has recently taken on the role of transportation supervisor. We thank her for her dedication and service to our students.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Joyce Wheeler

When you want someone to help and support students, the first person that would come to mind is PTA past president and current first vice president Joyce Wheeler. She is a dedicated parent who has the best interests of all students at the forefront in her decision-making. Joyce advocates for students, involving as many Garden City Park families as she can. She is honest and trustworthy, sees the big picture, and understands the importance of the home school connection. Joyce organizes the majority of the events of the PTA, looking to provide fun and engaging opportunities. She volunteers her time for the betterment of the students, faculty, staff, and community of Garden City Park. It is a pleasure and privilege to work alongside her.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Jennifer Derocchis

Jennifer DeRocchis has been an asset to the NHP-GCP BOE for the past six years in her role as Trustee. She loves her community and has served it well with her attention to detail, willingness to hear all information, ability to present thoughtful, clear opinions, as well as her awareness of events within the community and proactive style. Ms. DeRocchis has always been supportive of our goals as a community and lends a listening ear to all stakeholders. This is her last year serving on our Board and she will be missed. We thank her for all of the good work she has done for #NHPGCP.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Ann Burger

Ann Burger is an unsung hero. Ann's leadership and care for students, staff and families as a school nurse during a pandemic is honorable. Her support and dedication are evident in all that she does for our school. Ann wears many hats; she monitors our daily health questionnaires for all, tracks COVID cases and documentation, communicates with the Department of Health, takes care of our children and staff members who are not feeling well, and supports our families. We are very fortunate to work alongside Mrs. Burger, and we appreciate her time and dedication to the New Hyde Park Road School. It is my honor to nominate Ann Burger for the 2021 Award for Excellence.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Jennifer Banks

Jennifer Banks has been a teacher in the New Hyde Park-Garden City Park UFSD for six years. During this current school year, she has been a remote third grade teacher, working with students from across the district. Despite the unique challenges that surround this school year and remote teaching, she has gone above and beyond to reach her students and help them be academically and emotionally successful. She has mastered the use of many different technological tools and platforms to enhance each instructional day, provided support for fellow teachers and collaborated with others daily. We are proud to have Ms. Banks as a teacher in our schools and applaud all her hard work and contributions to the students, staff and teachers of our district.

NORTH BABYLON UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Mark Sabella

Mr. Sabella has been a valued member of the North Babylon School District since 2010. He has been an integral part of meeting the needs of our school community, ensuring the specific needs of our students. He can always be counted on in emergency and stressful situations, making sure our students have healthy and balanced meals during both Superstorm Sandy and during the COVID-19 closure. Mr. Sabella could be found at the high school every day during the closure guaranteeing the preparation and distribution of over 175,000 meals. Due to his tireless efforts, people could count on our district to be there for them during such unprecedented times. All of this is always done with such patience and kindness that Mr. Sabella is so deserving of this recognition.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Anthony J. Tatti

The late Anthony J. Tatti, a life-long North Babylon resident, proved himself to be a committed and dedicated member for the North Babylon community. Anthony's efforts and impressive level of dedication over the last 45 years to youth in the community, made him stand out as an extraordinary community leader and of the North Babylon community. As Executive Director of North Babylon Community Youth Services, he created both recreational and educational programs for youth in grades K-12 in addition to programs such as teen employment, volunteer services, tutoring, camps and drama programs. Anthony served as a volunteer for North Babylon Schools through the Parent & Youth Activities Committee. P.Y.A.C. initially created the student workshop programs and the summer drama for middle school students. Over the years, NBCYS has coordinated and worked with local groups such as the North Babylon School District, NBTO, PTAs, civic associations, local businesses, Lions Club, and the Youth Leagues. Sadly, Mr. Tatti passed on February 4, 2021.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARED

Christina Rotunno

Ms. Rotunno's dedication to the North Babylon School District began during her years as a student in the district. After graduation, Christina returned to North Babylon where she has worked in both the business and personnel departments for the past 24 years. Christina works well beyond her work day. She is the district historian on past practices and has significant pride in her work. During her years at North Babylon, she has trained many people and is a resource for all. Without her expertise, the district would not have grown as much as it has over the years. The only thing that is more paramount than her knowledge and experience is her kindness. Christina is patient, supportive and displays the tenements of what North Babylon represents.

NORTH BELLMORE UFSD

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Christine Malloy

Christine Malloy, elected last June, is the newest member of North Bellmore's Board of Education. She and her husband Brien have lived in the community for the past decade, and her four children attend Saw Mill Road Elementary School. She values the inclusive environment that the district sets up for its special education students, as well as the positive culture that the district offers its students to help them grow into future leaders. Christine is a forward thinking leader. Ms. Malloy has been a secondary teacher for 16 years, working with both general education and special education students, and also serves as a class adviser and student liaison. She has dual master's degrees in education and literacy studies from Hofstra University.

Jo-Ann Erhard

Jo-Ann Erhard is currently serving as Vice President of the North Bellmore Board of Education and is completing her second year on the Board. She is an integral member of the Audit Committee and currently serves as the NYSSBA conference representative. She is a creative and passionate leader. As president of the North Bellmore Coordinating Council of PTAs, she spearheaded a hosting of the film Race to Nowhere, to foster discussion on how a school community should prepare students for success. Jo Ann received the PTA Honorary Life and Distinguished Service Awards. Ms. Erhard is involved with the Bellmore-Merrick Community Cupboard and has helped organize collections for local families in need. Professionally, she works in a leadership position with Star Funding, supporting start-up and growing businesses.

Melissa Cmar-Grote

Melissa cmar-grote has served on the north bellmore board of education for the past six years and was president in the 2018-19 school year. She currently serves as member of the bellmore-merrick central high school district board of education. She is a courageous and insightful leader. An active member of the pta, she served twice as co-president and has been a representative, corresponding secretary and historian for north bellmore's coordinating council of ptas. Professionally, mrs. Cmar-grote is a licensed clinical laboratory scientist in microbiology at sunrise medical laboratories, where she has worked for twenty years. She is a valued member of the literacy nassau board of directors, volunteers for and donates to myriad events, including the bellmore lions annual polar express event.

Nina Lanci

Nina Lanci is in her seventeenth year on the North Bellmore Board of Education. She has served four stints as president and is on the Bellmore Merrick Central High School District Board of Education where she has served as president three times. Nina is a respected humanitarian. Ms. Lanci, Melvin Jones Fellow, was the first woman inducted into the Bellmore Lions Club. Over 19 years, she has been Lion Tamer, president, past district governor and District 20-K2 Zone chairperson. She annually spearheads the Polar Express Holiday Party. Professionally, she is retired from a 36-year career in accounting and finance. Nina received the Bellmore Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year, TOH Pathfinder Volunteer and BMUST Friend of Education awards. She also received the Lions Presidential Medal, Membership Advancement and Brandel-Murphy Miraculous Through Service awards.

Rosemarie Corless

Ms. Corless is currently President of the North Bellmore Board of Education and has served as a member for nearly a decade. This year is her second time serving as president of the Board. She is a leader of substance and integrity. As a board member, Ms. Corless has been involved with the district's strategic planning, facilities committee, mental health and wellness committee and health and safety committee and reopening team. She was the district's New York State School Board delegate in 2019 and is presently the district's advocacy liaison. Ms. Corless is a pediatric nurse practitioner at Cohen Children's Medical Center and prior to that worked at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Mrs. Corless was named New York State Woman of Distinction in 2008.

OYSTERPONDS UFSD

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Christy Webb

Ms. Christy Webb is a dedicated teacher assistant in our early childhood program. She has a keen eye on what is best for young children and enriches the educational experiences for our early learners. Christy and her classroom teacher have created a dynamic working team providing exciting learning activities for our three and four year old students, as well as, our kindergarten and first graders over the years. Christy supports her student's full participation in class and school activities with a firm and fair approach. Perhaps most of all, she is known for flexibility and willingness to pitch in when needed. Keep up the great job you are doing, it is very much appreciated.

Karen McGrann

Mrs. Karen McGrann has identified herself as an outstanding early childhood educator. She undertakes her responsibilities with an enthusiastic and energetic approach that has enriched our pre-K and kindergarten programs into exciting and fun experiences for our early learners. Her continued professional development broadened her knowledge and competency in early childhood education and infused cutting edge strategies and expectations into our programs. Her classroom layout and use of space created a learning environment promoting student independence and ownership of their learning. She presents lessons of substantial quality including high expectations, clear directions and age-appropriate activities promoting effective outcomes of self-esteem, self-confidence and positive cooperative learning. Karen's first priority is always her students and doing the best she can for them. Whatever she does, she does well and has identified herself as a key member of our professional staff. Congratulations, Karen.

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Paul Noonan

Mr. Noonan is the director of plants and facilities in the patchogue-medford school district. Mr. Noonan is extremely efficient, proactive and leads by example. Under these extraordinary and unprecedented times, the cleanliness of our facilities has been our top priority to ensure student and staff safety. Mr. Noonan implemented all of the department of health (doh) and centers for disease control (cdc) guidelines with fidelity and ensured his staff was well-educated on best practices and safety precautions. Additionally, in order to limit covid-19 exposure, Mr. Noonan and his team worked to construct thousands of poly-carbonate barriers and place them throughout the district. This was an enormous undertaking, and one in which he did without hesitation or complaint. He is a truly professional and responsive leader.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Anthony O'brien

Mr. O'Brien has been a member of the Patchogue-Medford School Board since July 1, 2009. During his twelve-year tenure in this voluntary post, he has served as president, vice president and trustee. Mr. O'Brien is a skilled leader and facilitator. He has worked with several superintendents and helped to mentor many of his colleagues throughout his service. He was instrumental in supporting legislative advocacy for the district across numerous initiatives as well as supports administration with budgeting, staffing and expanding extracurricular and social/emotional opportunities for our students. Mr. O'Brien's longstanding service record has brought a sense of continuity to the board, and regard-

less of any personal obstacles, he consistently serves with dedication, pride and integrity. Mr. O'Brien is a passionate student advocate, a champion of the district, and his significant contributions have truly enhanced the entire Patchogue-Medford community.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Kisha Hadzicki

Ms. Hadzicki works as an office assistant in our Family Center, but she does so much more. She constantly rises above and beyond her regular responsibilities to assist the community. She provides needed translation for families and has worked with community members on resume writing to enhance their employment opportunities. She has taken the initiative to grocery shop for elderly community members who were unable to fend for themselves, particularly during the pandemic. Ms. Hadzicki has fostered positive relationships with the immigrant community and has earned a level of trust to support them with sensitive topics, which has helped to strengthen the school-to-home connection. Ms. Hadzicki has battled personal issues and has suffered great loss, but you would never know it from her disposition, as she exudes positivity and professionalism in all of her interactions.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Nancy Goldfader

Ms. Goldfader is one of the most genuine, dedicated and highly regarded staff members in our district. She has worked as a guidance counselor for thirty-three devoted years in Patchogue-Medford and the district has truly become her home. She is a consummate professional and steadfast student advocate who has nurtured strong relationships with students, staff and families. Ms. Goldfader has served as the lead guidance counselor, has been heavily involved in homecoming activities, advised numerous clubs and extracurriculars as well as facilitated countless events. She has been a highly visible and dominant presence throughout the Patchogue-Medford community. It is with great hesitation that she is electing to retire at the end of this school year, and she will be profoundly missed. Ms. Goldfader is a true gem and well-deserving of this recognition.

PORT JEFFERSON UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Adam Sherrard

Adam Sherrard has been an incredible asset to the Port Jefferson administrative team. In the first three years in this role, Mr. Sherrard has quickly proven to be a dedicated and hard-working student advocate who extends his role well beyond the school day. In addition to supervising PE, Health, Athletics and Nursing, Mr. Sherrard is the COVID-19 Coordinator for the district. He is diligent in researching restrictions, communicating with families, contact tracing, and overseeing high-risk sports testing. The health and safety of students and staff are always at the core of his decision making. We are grateful for his service to Port Jefferson and look forward to his leadership in years to come.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Dennis Brennan

Dennis Brennan has been a lifelong advocate for the Port Jefferson community and its students. He served in the Peace Corps for two years, was an educator on Long Island for 19 years, a Port Jefferson School Board member for nine years, a member of the Port Jefferson Fire Department for 24 years, and has been with the Port Jefferson Rotary for more than 20 years. He has worked diligently with the Rotary on various programs such as Gift of Life; Stuff a Cupboard, Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck, Liaison with the HS Interact Club, and Middle School Student of the Month. He lives the Rotarian motto of Service Above Self. No cause is too small for Mr. Brennan, and no effort is too great if it involves the betterment of our youth. His unswerving commitment to the Port Jefferson community, its schools, and its students cannot be measured, but is gratefully acknowledged.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Lucy Arnone

Lucy Arnone is the epitome of dedication and compassion in the elementary school main office. With her 25 years of experience and her wealth of knowledge, Lucy is often relied on by the staff for information and advice. She is on the frontline of interactions with parents, and handles each question or concern with a positive attitude and utmost professionalism. As she prepares the annual school budget, her

attention to detail and diligence ensures accuracy and clarity. She undertakes and masters many other responsibilities that contribute to the overall excellence and wellbeing of our school community.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Regina Paquette

Regina Paquette is a valued member of the Port Jefferson School District. Her efforts and passion for our English language learners (ELLs) making sure that this population of students are well-served is truly an inspiration. During her time in the district, she has worked tirelessly to provide a high level of social, emotional, and academic support for these students. As a result, our ELLs have succeeded in the classroom, while also immersing themselves in the extracurricular opportunities presented to them during the school year. Mrs. Paquette goes out of her way to be a voice for parents and makes sure that they are included in their child's education. She regularly donates time and money to have families visit the school for networking events and to educate them about resources available through the community.

ROOSEVELT UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Brian Gladstone

Mr. Gladstone is an administrator who connects and relates to all staff. Mr. Gladstone pays close attention to detail and works extremely hard to fulfill his role at the middle school. Mr. Gladstone is a part of several committees and is responsible for implementing, monitoring and supporting needed goals and strategies. This includes high quality instructional leadership goals, instructional techniques that deepen engagement and school wide practices that support social-emotional learning. Additionally, Mr. Gladstone's responsibility for observations, supervising departments and staff, the master schedule and testing, did not preclude him from the management of student activities and behavioral support. With the COVID -19 pandemic, Mr. Gladstone has exemplified professionalism and leadership through his forward thinking and executes tasks as needed.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Emily Moore

Dr. Emily Moore has been a valuable member of the Roosevelt School District in several different ways. Dr. Moore served as an elementary physical education teacher, coach, and Board of Education Trustee. Emily enjoys enriching young minds by ensuring that they know their history and their heritage. Dr. Moore is an avid tennis enthusiast and is the Executive Director and Founder of the Alliance Junior Development Program, Inc., which she founded in 1975 to introduce the sport to underprivileged children. Dr. Moore uses fair play to teach the importance of standing up against inequality and injustice. Dr. Moore was one of 11 Morgan State University students arrested for refusing to leave a segregated movie theater. Dr. Moore was a Peace Corps volunteer and served in Nigeria. Dr. Moore is a pillar in the Roosevelt Community and we honor her for her service.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Belinda Monroe

Belinda Monroe has served on the Roosevelt School District Board of Education since 2020. Her slogan during her run for the Board said it best: Leadership You Can Trust. She gives of her time selflessly. Mrs. Monroe has raised her two daughters here and has always served this community faithfully and with pride. Belinda has also served for many years on the PTSA and has helped numerous children in the district. She has been successful in her fundraising efforts, which support activities in and around the school. Mrs. Monroe believes in supporting student achievement as well as the health and wellbeing of our community.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

David Gordon

All work is honorable. Always do your best because someone is watching, best describes Mr. David Gordon, head custodian at the Centennial School for eight years and a custodian in the district for 12 years. Mr. Gordon has a strong work ethic and takes great pride in everything he does. He is always willing to go the extra mile for anyone beyond the call of duty. Above all, Mr. Gordon is a great man of faith and this is evident in how he maintains the building as if it were his home and the staff as his

family. Mr. Gordon will be retiring this year and will be missed. But his work has been honorable and he always can be found doing his best.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Todd Parrish

Todd Parrish is a Roosevelt alumnae. He has served his community in many rolls from basketball coach to mentor to educator. Mr. Parrish is the Roosevelt Middle School Regents U.S. History teacher and has spearheaded our African American History celebration for the last three years. Mr. Parrish has made enormous strides in utilizing technology with his classes during this pandemic season. His love for the profession and care for the students is evident in his daily work. Todd Parrish is a great asset to the Roosevelt Middle School, the Roosevelt Union Free School District and the community at large.

SACHEM CSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Jose Cruz

It is my honor and privilege to recommend Mr. Jose Cruz for the 2021 excellence in administration service award. Jose is arguably the most caring, compassionate, and determined school administrator I have ever worked with. To me, he can best be described with one word, HEART. Mr. Cruz's ability to always put students first is nothing short of inspiring. Often educators lose their true purpose for why they work in a school and with children. Mr. Cruz has never lost sight of his true passion, children. His ability to bring students and teachers together to directly benefit our school community is remarkable. Jose builds meaningful relationships with our most troubled students, as well as our highly competitive academic students. He has truly made a difference in the lives of all his students. Mr. Cruz is invincible when it comes to giving the students every opportunity to grow and become confident young adults. Jose Cruz is an exemplary educator that others strive to emulate. Educators who have been lucky enough to have worked with him will all agree he is irreplaceable.

Stacie

Spatafora-Dicio

Ms. Spatafora-Dicio is a dedicated, hard-working, compassionate administrator. In the H.R. arena it is fair to say that much of our work is behind the scenes and one would never know all of the intricate details and hurdles which need to be addressed for something to be completed. Examples of the intricate work involve oversight for fielding worker's compensation, grievances, compliance cases and mandates, contractual bargaining agreement terms, collaborating with counsel on legal and contractual ramifications, H.R. budget, staffing, hiring and separation terms and benefits, COVID-19 guidance, protocols and navigating COVID cases, as well as audits and communication with outside state and federal agencies. She works with a broad employee base navigating a myriad of areas to assist employees who may need support. We are blessed and proud to have Ms. Spatafora-Dicio on our executive team.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Bevin Llanes

It is with great honor that I nominate Bevin Llanes for the SCOPE Education Services 2021 Award for Excellence in Community Service. Bevin gives her time again and again for all of our students year after year. She is one of the most selfless people you will ever come across and at the heart of every one of her interactions is what's best for ALL of our kids. Bevin has been a PTA leader in Sachem Schools for years and I do not know where we would be without her. Recognizing that it truly takes a village, Bevin does not hesitate to check in with me or give me a heads up on all things going on with our school community. She certainly has our schools and our students' best interest at the forefront of her thought process. As a first year superintendent, Bevin was among the first people I met in the Sachem School community and her warm welcome and calm approach is something I will forever be indebted to.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Kathleen McCabe

Kathleen McCabe is instrumental to the health and well-being of the Sachem Central School District as the lead nurse of the Health Services Department. Kathleen McCabe has been a registered nurse for 39 years, an RN for the district for 24 years and the lead nurse for the district for the last five years. Lead nurse McCabe has been a vital contributor to the Sachem CSD's COVID-19 response team and has dedicated countless hours to ensuring the safety of Sachem students and staff members. In her leader-

ship role, nurse McCabe participates in multiple committees, including the district's Wellness committee, Safety committee and Hiring committees. Nurse McCabe's experiences has given her a wealth of knowledge that drives the department forward.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Mary Pepe

Mary Pepe grew up in Sachem and was very involved. Mary continues to be very involved in whatever building she is assigned to. She would organize ways for faculty to gather and build relationships, fill pantries with food/clothing drives, and organizes Career Week, etc. Ms. Pepe is the one who sees the good in students and looks deeper to make connections with them to make them as successful as they can be. Mary has always had a demeanor of business and professionalism. She is passionate about careers and makes sure her students are college ready and assists with building their resumes. Mary Pepe is known for enriching the overall culture of the building and district and continues to push for financial literacy for all students.

SAYVILLE UFSD

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Donna Brown

Donna is incredibly kind, caring, and supportive to all students, faculty, and staff at Sayville Middle School. She has cultivated an atmosphere of trust with our students and their families. Her vast experience as a registered nurse is valued by her colleagues. Other nurses in the district often look to Donna as a confidant and a leader within the department. In any situation, Donna's insight is needed and valued. This has been a very challenging and busy year for our nurses. Donna handles stressful situations with patience and grace. We are extremely grateful to have her in our building and would be lost without her. Donna is an invaluable team member. We cannot say thank you enough.

Jennifer McDonald

Ms. McDonald's professionalism and dedication are admirable. Arguably, there has never been a more challenging time in public schools to be a school nurse. Despite these unprecedented challenges, Ms. McDonald has cared for our entire school community with poise and dignity. Her calm demeanor is reassuring and her expertise benefits all members of our high school. Jenn is the consummate team player. She is continually looking for ways to contribute to the greater good and is always willing to do what works best for the group. This is her personal philosophy and she has a work ethic to match. We are tremendously fortunate to have Jennifer McDonald as part of our high school family. She is our health care worker hero.

Jennifer Riviello

Ms. Riviello is a proven asset to our high school's staff, faculty and students. Her empathic disposition makes everyone she cares for feel comfortable and safe. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and competent nurse providing such a high level of support for our Nurse's Office and team. Jennifer demonstrates a great deal of compassion when working with the students at Sayville Middle School. She has a wealth of knowledge in her field and explains things in terms that our students can understand. She has made positive connections with our families and has earned their trust. We are extremely fortunate to have Jennifer with us at Sayville Middle School and we look forward to working with her in the future.

Kara Alcabes

Mrs. Kara Alcabes fills in daily for the building nurses at both Lincoln Avenue and Sunrise Drive. Mrs. Alcabes manages to run the nurse's office efficiently during one of the busiest times of the day; student lunch and recess. Mrs. Alcabes is kind and caring in her approach to assessing student needs. She makes sure to keep the building nurse apprised of student visits, as well as parent and staff concerns. As has been the case for all nurses this year, Mrs. Alcabes' expertise and counseling have been invaluable in helping our community navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Her calm presence and diligence has provided our nursing staff with the peace of mind needed when they cannot be in their office. There is never a student that leaves her office without the care they needed and a smile.

Kathleen Nolan

Mrs. Kathleen Nolan has been the school nurse at Lincoln Avenue Elementary School for more than 20 years. Mrs. Nolan's professionalism, compassion, diligence, and willingness to work with faculty, staff, students and families have always been her strengths. This year, more than ever, she has been called upon to support not only the health needs of students and their families, but she has become a reliable resource for everyone in our school community in helping allay the fears and questions surrounding living through a pandemic. Mrs. Nolan has shown incredible patience, understanding, and kindness while helping students, staff, and families navigate CDC and health department guidance, as well as personal health concerns. Her knowledge and understanding have been invaluable in maintaining a safe and healthy school environment for our entire community.

Susan Rende

Susan Rende provides so much more than just health care on a day to day basis. Ms. Rende has been the school nurse at Sunrise Drive Elementary for 14 years and a part of Sayville Public Schools since 2006. Over that time, she has provided day-to-day health and wellness care for our students and staff. Big or small, Ms. Rende is always steady and calm in all medical decisions. Both students and staff never leave without the care they needed and also a smile. Over the past year, Ms. Rende has truly displayed her unfaltering ability in the face of a pandemic. Parents, staff, and students are more comfortable and feel safe because of the remarkable care Susan Rende has displayed. It is a true gift to work with such a passionate and dedicated professional.

Teresa Lotito

Ms. Teresa Lotito has been a nurse at Cherry Avenue Elementary School for the past five years. During that time, especially during the pandemic, Ms. Lotito has been an integral member of the building upholding health and safety protocols to ensure the well-being of all stakeholders. Her commitment to detail, collaboration, familiarizing herself with the latest CDC/State guidelines, and thorough communication skills have been second to none. Students, families, and staff alike benefit from her patient, caring, and approachable demeanor. Ms. Lotito has helped the building navigate through these unprecedented times by keeping health and safety as the number one priority. We would be lost without her leadership, care, support and medical expertise.

SEAFORD UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Thomas E. Lynch, Jr.

Mr. Thomas Lynch is the Executive Director for Instructional Technology and STEM. During the last three years, he has been instrumental in developing our Personalized Digital Learning, focusing on the integration of instructional technology and the utilization of mobile devices by all of our students. He is an approachable and giving educator providing quality professional development and personally coaching administrators, teachers, parents and students. Mr. Lynch is a skilled leader who inspires instructional excellence as he supervises the science, math, technology and library departments. He is an invaluable team player who has been a bright light during these challenging times.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Andrea Parisi

Ms. Andrea Parisi has served on the Seaford Board of Education for the last three years. She has two children who attend the Seaford Manor Elementary School. Her enthusiasm is palpable and she has been a cheerleader through tumultuous times. Being a teacher herself, she understands the particular challenges that have existed in our classrooms this year. Ms. Parisi has remained focused on developing programs of educational excellence while maintaining rich extra-curricular offerings for our students. Over the last three years, she has also been a champion for school safety. We greatly appreciate her commitment to our students, staff and faculty.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Lorraine Burke

Lorraine is the unofficial Anthony Fauci of Seaford. During this time of COVID-19, her value has multiplied tenfold. From monitoring her own caseloads at the middle school to overseeing her district staff as head nurse, she has been the source for information, science, and direction during these very

tenuous and uncertain times. She is unwavering in her adherence to health protocols and does not shy away from uncomfortable situations when warranted. Our students, families, staff, and community look to Lorraine to guide us through these very difficult times. We are lucky to have her and appreciate the concern she has for our collective safety and welfare.

Sharon Harding

Ms. Harding has served as the Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools for the last four years. She began her career in the Seaford School District in 2000 and over the last 21 years she has worked in a myriad of positions at the high school and in central office. As the proud mother of two Seaford graduates, Ryan and Daniel, she exudes Seaford Pride. Her ability to multi-task and enthusiastically embrace new projects is laudable. This past year, Ms. Harding has been unflappable in her ability to manage the challenges associated with COVID-19 management in addition to the hectic, fast-paced environment associated with the office of the Superintendent of Schools. She will be sorely missed as she retires and sails away with her husband, Dan.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Eric Lichtwar

Eric Lichtwar is the teacher you request to teach your own child. His professionalism, love of learning, calm and patient demeanor, and desire to make his students the best they can be make him the teacher to get. He is Seaford. He began as a special education teacher in the middle school 30 years ago and, six years later, switched to sixth grade elementary math and science teacher. He has coached numerous sports from field hockey to football. He is blessed with an amazing family – his wife, Cynthia and children Natasha, Damien, and Kiera - Seaford Middle School's loss due to his retirement this year is their gain. The Seaford community is proud that he can be acknowledged with the 2021 SCOPE Award.

SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER CSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Louis Parrinello

In addition to marking his 20th anniversary as a principal, Mr. Lou Parrinello counts himself fortunate to have previously filled the roles of maintenance worker, NYIT adjunct professor, network systems operator, special education aide, teaching assistant, administrative assistant, and both a general and special education teacher. Lou enjoys starting each day with Something to Think About creating inspirational messages tailored to his school, including streaming these messages, complete with puppets, to his students during the shutdown. Named Educator of the Year in 2004 by the Times Beacon Record, Lou is deeply thankful for his dedicated staff, caring students, generous learning community, visionary administrative team and supportive family who all work in concert to create a safe and welcoming learning environment for children to thrive.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Larry Kogel

Mr. Larry Kogel has devoted a great deal to the Shoreham-Wading River School District. He currently serves on the district Audit Committee and was previously on the Drug Free School Committee and Superintendent Search Committee. Mr. Kogel is also an active community member. He has been the president and board member of the North Shore Youth Council for over thirty years, a Rocky Point Rotary Club trustee and chairman of the golf committee, and the commissioner of public works and building commissioner. Mr. Kogel is a retired president and CEO of several construction and Building Supply Companies. He has been married to his wife Ruth for 50 years and is proud that his two daughters, Wendy and Rachel are alumni of the Shoreham-Wading River School District.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Henry Perez

Mr. Henry Perez is completing his fourth year as a member of the Shoreham-Wading River Board of Education. In addition to the countless hours Mr. Perez devotes to being a board member, he also spends a great deal of time serving the school community and is currently serving on the Audit Committee, Safety Committee, Space and Facilities Committee and Legislative Committee. Mr. Perez also is an active member of the community at large and is a member of the Brookhaven National Laboratory Community Advisory Committee, a member of the Wading River Civic Association and volunteers for

the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Perez consistently makes decisions that are in the best interests of all the students in the Shoreham-Wading River School District.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Mary Jean Carlson

Ms. Mary Jean Carlson has worked in the Shoreham-Wading River School District for 30 years. She has been working in the guidance office since 1996 and has positively influenced thousands of students with her help and support. Ms. Carlson has established many relationships with students, families and staff. She says, "It has been a joy to work closely with the students during their last years at Shoreham-Wading River." Ms. Carlson has been involved as a CSEA leader; beginning as a building representative and serving as secretary, vice president and then as president since 2013. Ms. Carlson works tirelessly and professionally representing her membership. Ms. Carlson was born and raised in Shoreham and has a wonderful husband, two adult children and a daughter-in-law.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Danielle Senneca

Ms. Senneca has been teaching social studies at Shoreham-Wading River since 2004. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Salisbury University in History and Secondary Education and her Master's degree from Stony Brook University. Ms. Senneca has been the producer of the middle school musical for 16 years and is the founding advisor of the National History Day Club. She has served as a social studies lead teacher, Curriculum and Staff Development Committee member, Oral History Day organizer, facilitator of new teacher workshops and in-service courses. Her courses have included Veterans Day, Black History Month, and Women's History Month assemblies and school-wide activities. She is a dynamic teacher who has kept the tradition of Radicals and Tories alive for the students of Shoreham-Wading River.

SMITHTOWN CSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Neil Katz

Mr. Neil Katz, a Nesconset resident, has served the district in his capacity as Assistant Superintendent for Personnel since 2016 and previously as a business teacher at Smithtown High School from 1998-2003. In a typical year, his job would be formidable enough, but when he volunteered to be the district's COVID-19 Coordinator, his day-to-day responsibilities grew exponentially. With calm and professionalism, he tackled every unprecedented task with a thoughtful approach and unwavering work ethic. He played an integral role in the formation of our plan, especially in the all important area of the health and safety compliance with the established guidelines. His attention to detail and patience has been essential in explaining the evolving guidance and contact tracing requirements with the Department of Health as well as our staff and parents. This work has truly been non-stop, yet his earnest approach has never wavered. The Smithtown School community will forever be in his debt.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Andrea Elsky

Ms. Andrea Elsky, a Smithtown resident, is a tireless supporter of the students within the Smithtown Central School District. While her daughter no longer attends our schools, having graduated from Smithtown High School West in 2020, she continues to be a force for good in our school community. She was chosen as a Smithtown Hero for her efforts during the pandemic. She has gone above and beyond to provide food, clothing and general support to the students and families who have struggled. She has volunteered within the district in many ways, including as a parent member to the Committee on Special Education, where she assists parents and guardians with the CSE meeting process. She is a respected and effective advocate for the social, emotional and academic needs of the students in our care and we are thankful for her support.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Matthew Gribbin

Mr. Matthew Gribbin, President of the Board of Education, has served on the Board since 2017 and assumed the position of president in 2020. He has been a strong partner in the district's attempts to balance the health, safety and academic needs of the students in our care and the staff that serve them.

His student-centered approach coupled with a strong understanding of the need for the district to be a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars has helped place Smithtown in an advantageous position as we collectively navigate the challenges ahead. Understanding the importance of collaboration on matters that benefit the greater school community, he has developed strong relationships with our local and state elected officials. Matt is also a teacher in the Half Hollow Hills Central School District and an active member in the Smithtown community.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Christine Martucci

Ms. Christine Martucci has served the Smithtown Central School District for the past 27 years as a special education aide, clerk typist, senior clerk typist, and most recently a principal office assistant. As an integral member of the curriculum office, Ms. Martucci provides outstanding support to all members of the school community. She goes out of her way to assist even when the question or task is unrelated to her work. This year, Ms. Martucci has been instrumental in helping to reimagine all of our typical protocols by offering well-developed ideas that account for all variables in a given situation. Ms. Martucci is calm, patient, detail oriented, and driven. Above all, Ms. Martucci approaches her daily work with the highest degree of humility and good humor.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Sheila Tobin Cavooris

Ms. Sheila Tobin Cavooris has served the Smithtown Central School District for the past 26 years as a tutor, elementary teacher, reading teacher, and most recently a library media specialist. Ms. Tobin Cavooris is an integral member of the Great Hollow Middle School community. She has worked tirelessly to transform our library into a space that supports both students and faculty. In a traditional school year, Ms. Tobin Cavooris can be seen co-teaching with faculty members, working with students during their lunch periods, working with teachers in our teacher resource center, and helping students to create in our makerspace. During this past school year, Ms. Tobin Cavooris has strived to create a learning environment within the library that not only meets the academic needs of students and teachers, but provides an environment that meets their social and emotional needs as well, all while maintaining their health and safety. She is always available to help students, faculty and building administration.

SOUTHOLD UFSD

SUPPORT STAFF

Lisa Park

Mrs. Lisa Park has served Southold Junior-Senior High School as an aide for the last 20 years. While fulfilling the typical responsibilities of hallway, cafeteria, library, and study hall supervision, along with staffing our Welcome Desk, Mrs. Park's influence and impact on our school has been invaluable. Mrs. Park demonstrates an eager willingness to support our students and the ability to provide insightful history and meaningful context of our school. Her wisdom, kindness, and experience will be missed, and we congratulate Mrs. Park on her well-deserved retirement.

SPRINGS UFSD

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Timothy Frazier

Tim Frazier has been a dedicated Board of Education member of Springs UFSD for the past ten years, and served as vice president for six of those years. His 44 year career in education has led him to be a strong advocate for student engagement, literacy instruction, professional development for teachers, and equity for all students. During his tenure on the Board, Springs School has never exceeded the tax cap and has passed budgets consistently. He was a strong proponent for a recently passed \$23 million bond to reduce overcrowding in our school. Although recently retired as Principal of Southampton Intermediate School, Mr. Frazier quickly accepted the role of Executive Director of Eleanor Whitmore Early Childhood Center.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Debra Gherardi

Debra Gherardi has been the school nurse for Springs School for the past 21 years. She works every summer in our Extended School Year program. She has witnessed a great deal of changes in school nursing over the years, and an increasing enrollment at Springs School, but nothing prepared her for what she has experienced this past year. COVID-19 added an entirely new level to school nursing and became a 24/7 job. Mrs. Gherardi immediately became a member of the Health and Safety Committee charged with opening schools safely. She immersed herself in the contact tracing guidelines, and speaks with every parent of a student who tests positive or who is quarantined. She is in constant communication with building administration and staff. Nurse Gherardi agreed to in-school COVID-19 testing and is interested in training to provide vaccines. Springs School is so fortunate to have such a dedicated, professional keeping us healthy and safe.

Julie Bistran

Julie Bistran has been an essential employee in the Springs School Business Office for more than 10 years. Serving as Senior Account Clerk and Purchasing Agent, Julie is well-versed in all aspects of the business office. Her amazingly versatile skills allow her to serve as the District Clerk along with various other roles. Mrs. Bistran worked tirelessly during the pandemic to ensure all staff and vendors were paid. When challenged by a district vote entirely by mail, she immediately rolled up her sleeves and got the job done. She ordered supplies and enlisted trusted support staff to ensure the district vote went smoothly. Mrs. Bistran is a true professional and always willing to go the extra mile.

Kelly Carmona

Kelly Carmona was hired in December 2017 as a part-time account clerk before being appointed as a full-time account clerk. Initially tasked with working on payroll processing, Mrs. Carmona has taken on other functions within the business office. She was in the district during the pandemic working hard to ensure everyone was paid. In a very short time, Mrs. Carmona has proven herself to be extremely dependable and responsible. Her sense of humor has kept things light and improved the overall tone in the business office. When colleagues need help with their functions in the business office, she never hesitates to assist. Mrs. Carmona was an integral part of the team who secured a successful budget vote, all by mail, during a global pandemic.

Tara Gurney

Tara Gurney has been a part-time school nurse for Springs School for the past 11 years. Normally, Mrs. Gurney is off during the summer, but she immediately volunteered to assist the Health and Safety Committee charged with opening schools safely during a global pandemic. Without hesitation, Mrs. Gurney changed her school hours to support temperature checks of students during arrival. Along with her colleague, she is in constant communication with parents, staff and administration. Nurse Gurney is extremely organized, creating Excel spreadsheets to keep track of positive cases and the number of quarantine days. With our full-time nurse, Mrs. Gurney became immersed in contract tracing. She organized our school-based COVID-19 testing. School nurses are hard to find, especially on the east end of Long Island. Ms. Gurney is a gem.

THREE VILLAGE CSD

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

William F. Connors, Jr.

Bill Connors is a true advocate for public education and a long-standing member of the Board of Education. A dedicated educator at heart, he retired from Suffolk County Community College in 2011 after holding a variety of impressive faculty and senior administrative positions spanning 44 years. He previously served on the Board of Education from 1994-2006 and as president from 1996-2006 and vice president from 1995-1996. He was elected again to the Board of Education in 2012 and served as board president from 2014-2020. While his credentials are impressive, what truly distinguishes Bill is the pure altruism with which he has led our district. His unselfish commitment to the students, staff, and school community identify him as a most remarkable educator and board trustee who has made an indelible and lasting impact on the Three Village Central School District. It is a privilege to nominate Bill Connors for this honorable recognition.

TUCKAHOE COMMON SD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Carl Fraser

Mr. Fraser is a seasoned veteran who was pulled out of retirement to assist the Tuckahoe Common School District for the 2017-2018 school year. Tuckahoe loved him so much we convinced him to stay "One more year" four times. He is a dedicated individual whose Business Official knowledge is unsurpassed. Despite the many obstacles that presented themselves over the last four years, Mr. Fraser has guided us through these increasingly difficult times in a manner that is fiscally responsible, while permitting us to retain our dedicated staff, continue to offer innovated programs, and maintain and improve our facilities. Tuckahoe wishes to thank him and is proud to call him a member of our family.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Sean Hattrick

Mr. Hattrick has been serving on the Tuckahoe Common School District Board of Trustees since 2015. From day one of service, Mr. Hattrick has been a fierce supporter of our district, their families, and our community. He is currently serving as president for the second time, and has previously held the positions of trustee, and vice president. He has been instrumental in district negotiations and has worked collaboratively to support the district in creating an academic environment second to none. The entire Tuckahoe community thanks him for his hard work and tireless dedication.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Mitch Sobczyk

Mr. Sobczyk is the hardworking, tireless, innovative, and proactive leader of our custodial and maintenance team. As a hands-on leader, Mr. Sobczyk ensures that our building is clean, safe, and functional at peak proficiency and performance each day. He is a glowing example of professionalism who answers the call and responds, literally, at any hour of the day or night, 365 days a year. Mr. Sobczyk's wonderful sense of humor and dedication are greatly appreciated by all, and his presence in the building makes it a wonderful place to be each day.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Elizabeth Bruno

Mrs. Bruno was hired in 2003 and has since made herself an invaluable member of the Tuckahoe family. Her dedication to her students, even during times of adversity, is unparalleled. One of her greatest strengths as a social studies teacher is creating connections from history to her students' current situations. History lives in her classroom and her students leave each day with a true understanding, and connection with history. Through their shared connections with history, Mrs. Bruno makes lifelong connections with her students. Tuckahoe is proud to have her as part of our faculty and family.

WEST BABYLON UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

DR. YIENDHY FARRELLY

Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent, has served in her position since the 2014-2015 school year. Dr. Farrelly works tirelessly to support our students, staff and faculty while addressing all school district needs. In 2006, she started with the district as the director of student services. In 2009, she was appointed to the position of assistant superintendent for human resources. Dr. Farrelly has two daughters, Taylor and Shayla.

Mr. Shawn Hanley

Mr. Shawn Hanley, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, has been in his position since January 2015. Mr. Hanley always addresses employee needs in a sensitive, respectful manner. He serves as an invaluable resource to all. Mr. Hanley began with the district as a science teacher in September 2000. He worked as the K-8 science coordinator and later, at the Senior High School, as the assistant principal. Mr. Hanley has three sons, Colin, Brennan, and Aidan.

Michele Psarakis

Mrs. Michele Psarakis, CPA, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, began working for the district in 2014. She is responsible for the Business Office which encompasses the district's financial component. Mrs. Psarakis also oversees the Buildings and Grounds, School Food Services and Transportation operations. Mrs. Psarakis is a phenomenal business official who not only ensures we are making fiscally responsible decisions, but is also actively engaged in the decision making process. Mrs. Psarakis has two daughters, Madeline and Diana.

Scott Payne

Mr. Scott Payne, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, began working for the district in the latter part of 2001 as the Junior High School assistant principal. In 2008, he was appointed to the position of Junior High School principal. In 2016, he assumed the position of executive director of curriculum and instruction and in April 2018, his title was changed to assistant superintendent. In this role, Mr. Payne goes above and beyond to implement and support our directors, principals, and teachers with curricular as well as instruction initiatives. Mr. Payne has three children, Emily, Emerson and Christopher. West Babylon is fortunate to have this central team.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Robert Lucchesse

Mr. Robert Lucchesse has been in the restoration field for the past 40 years. For 31 years, he owned BDK Restoration and these last nine years, he has owned/operated Servpro. Mr. Lucchesse is a West Babylon High School graduate and has been a West Babylon resident for many years. He has been married to Dianne for 43 years and they have two daughters, Kimberly and Alexa, both of whom are WBSHS graduates. Mr. Lucchesse's family also includes two grandsons, Matthew and Luke. Since 1976, Mr. Lucchesse has been donating his time to the community. Currently, he coaches the West Babylon JHS softball team. As a community member, he has held the following positions: past West Babylon Lions Club president, past West Babylon Music Parents Association vice president, past West Babylon Conference League (football & cheerleading) president, and past board member of the West Babylon Little League. Presently, Mr. Lucchesse is a member of the West Babylon Alumni Foundation and President of the WB Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Lucchesse is humbled by the honor of receiving the SCOPE award. His goal has always been to make West Babylon a better place to live.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

John Evola

Mr. John Evola is an alumni of the West Babylon UFSD. He has spent his whole life in West Babylon. He and his wife Janet have been married for 23 years and are raising their two children here, Georgia, Class of 2020, and John, Class of 2021. Mr. Evola is a retired NYPD officer who, for the last six years, has been a trustee on the Board of Education. He is also a Board trustee for the SAFE program. John volunteers as an assistant scout master for Boy Scout Troop 175, where he was also a Boy Scout and his son has just earned his Eagle Scout rank. Mr. Evola is proud to serve his community. As a board member, Mr. Evola has always focused on what is best for the students and the West Babylon School District.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Jane Chiappone

Mrs. Jane Chiappone started work in the West Babylon UFSD in 2005 as a clerk typist. Currently, she works as senior office assistant for the superintendent of schools and serves as the district's assistant district clerk. Mrs. Chiappone moved to West Babylon in 1989. Her sons, Sam and Paul, were born and raised here. Her husband, Santo, graduated West Babylon Senior High School, Class of 1976. Jane loves gardening, reading, and West Babylon's enviable proximity to all that living on Long Island has to offer, from New York city, to the beauty of our parks and beaches. Mrs. Chiappone is an asset to our school district. She goes above and beyond to assist parents or employees who reach out to the superintendent's office. Mrs. Chiappone offers invaluable support to the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Kelly Connolly

Ms. Kelly Connolly lives in West Babylon with her two children Brian and Danica. She started in West Babylon Senior High School in 2002 and has taught nearly every grade and level including AP, ENL, inclusion and special education inclusion, her favorite. Ms. Connolly loves being part of the West Babylon community and is a volunteer at OLOG Church in West Babylon. She is also an animal advocate having owned and trained a number of rescue dogs. In her free time, Kelly likes to read non-fiction on topics relating to teaching. Ms. Connolly is touched and grateful to be selected to receive this award. Ms. Connolly is a dedicated educator who is loved by her students. She participates and offers her input on countless committees. West Babylon is fortunate to have her.

WESTBURY UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Claudia Germain

Claudia Germain has served as the Principal of Powells Lane School for the past 12 years. She has over 29 years of experience as an educator, including 16 years as an administrator. As a visionary leader who collaborates with colleagues, faculty, and families to place the needs of all students first, Ms. Germain provides opportunities and experiences for her students to excel academically, as well as, socially and emotionally. Under her leadership, an elementary musical theatre program, debate league, and the Powells Lane Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society were established. All can attest to her high expectations of herself and others. In addition to her role as an educator, and her commitment to volunteerism, her greatest joy are her children, Tyler and Sydney.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Vicki Sylvain

Vicki Sylvain has been committed to the growth and advancement of women and young people for as far back as she can remember. In 1999, Vicki founded Quiescere Resource Center, to offer resources and education-based services to immigrant families. QRC has since expanded to provide aid to women and children affected by natural disasters in Haiti following the devastating earthquake in 2010. She launched and spearheaded the Survival Kit Drive for the Women of Haiti. Presently, Vicki serves as the Family and Community Engagement Liaison for the Westbury School District. She was born and raised in Westbury to parents that immigrated from Haiti. She finds this honor rewarding and profound. She is working in this capacity to provide support and guidance to families in a way her parents had when she was growing up.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Marianita Cleere

Ms. Cleere has been with Westbury Public Schools since 1996. During this time, she has worked in Pupil Personnel Services and is currently working for the director of the office of instruction, assessments and funded programs. She has earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology while employed with the district and is working towards her Master's Degree. She has a daughter, Rebecca, who is presently attending John Jay College. Rebecca started her education at Dryden Street School and graduated Holy Trinity High School. Ms. Cleere has helped the Westbury community and staff in many ways, particularly with her bilingual skills.

Johnny Garrett

Johnny Garrett is a Westbury graduate of the Class of 1978. In 1980, he was hired to work at the Park Avenue School. Mr. Garrett is very proud to have watched many students go through the Park Avenue School. He has been a role model for them and feels capable of making a difference in their lives and does not take this lightly. He still sees some of the high school graduates in the community. It is heartwarming to him to know that they are grateful and remember him for the things that he has done for them. As an active deacon at the First Baptist Cathedral in Westbury, he contributes his services to the sick and shut-in. He feels blessed and thankful to be working for the Westbury School District and the Park Avenue School.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Renate Johnson

Renate Johnson began her career in the business world, before embarking on her educational career. She has taught students ages 5-80, kindergarten to adult education. She has been teaching at Westbury High School for the past 12 years as a business teacher. One of her passions is to help her students become financially literate young adults. Renate has worked on creating many opportunities for her students through field trips, internships, job shadows, guest speaker events, business competitions, new courses, and jobs. She has also played a vital role in bringing the Westbury High School Industry Advisory Board to its current level, developing relationships with more than 50 local businesses.

WESTERN SUFFOLK BOCES

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Lene Herz, Esq.

For more than three decades, Ilene Herz, Esq. has served her community with distinction as a Board of Education trustee. An attorney who is highly regarded for her legal acumen and keen insight, Mrs. Herz was elected to the Half Hollow Hills Board in 1988 and served until 1997. In 1995, she was also elected to the Western Suffolk BOCES Board of Education, and is currently the Board Vice President. Mrs. Herz's distinguished community involvement includes a role as a Congressional Educational Liaison, a board position on the Suffolk County Bar Association Pro Bono Foundation and membership on the Town of Huntington Anti-Bias Task Force. She has also been active with the National, New York State and Nassau-Suffolk School Board Associations.

WILLIAM FLOYD UFSD

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Families And Residents Of The William Floyd School District

The William Floyd School District would like to recognize the parents, guardians, families, students and residents of the William Floyd School District community for their patience and partnership, as we, along with districts everywhere, strive to deliver a high-quality education, provide student meals and necessary support through the most challenging school year in history. Thank you for working with us as we continue to navigate this unprecedented health crisis and work toward a brighter future.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Board Of Education

The seven elected volunteer Board of Education Trustees – Robert Vecchio, April Coppola, Thomas Gross, Robert Taiani, Robert Guerriero, Lorraine Mentz and Angelo Cassarino – continue to faithfully serve the residents of the William Floyd School District through their volunteerism, advocacy, responsible stewardship and love of community. They have helped guide the district to new heights including 90% graduation rate, introduced fiscally responsible and sound budgets, and have been instrumental in supporting the creation of numerous dynamic instructional programs, topnotch academics, science research, career and technical education opportunities, brand new fields, auditoriums, facilities, an adaptable playground and much more, for our students and the community. Their steady governance has also helped the district navigate its way through 2020 and 2021 – years like no other. They are truly deserving of this award.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

ALL William Floyd School District Employees

All employees of the William Floyd School District – nurses, security, clerical, district office staff association, maintenance/custodial/grounds, teachers, paraprofessionals and teaching assistants, heads and chiefs, building administrators, district office administrators and non-aligned employees – have continued to consistently be there for our students and their families throughout this pandemic. This year was an all-around team effort to navigate through one of the most challenging school years in history and our employees from every unit have risen to the challenge. The district is grateful for the service and commitment of all of our employees. We look forward to a bright future ahead.

Aramark Food Services

The William Floyd School District selects Aramark Food Services, a great district partner, as a recipient of the Support Staff award. Aramark has been there to help provide meals to our community from the onset of the pandemic and every weekday and non-school holiday since. Aramark employees worked hard daily to prepare hundreds of thousands of meals for our students, whether through bus delivery or at our grab-and-go locations, to ensure that no child went hungry. This service is vital in a high-needs community with more than 65% of students qualifying for free or reduced meals. Aramark continues to be a great partner during the most challenging school year in history.

First Student Transportation

The William Floyd School District selects First Student Transportation, a great district partner, as a recipient of the Support Staff award. First Student has been there to help provide meals to our community from the onset of the pandemic and every weekday and non-school holiday since. Basically overnight, employees went from driving students to school, to driving meals to students. The drivers worked hard daily to deliver hundreds of thousands of meals for our community ensuring that no child went hungry. This service is vital in a high-needs community with more than 65% of students qualifying for free or reduced meals. First Student Transportation continues to be a great partner especially during the most challenging school year in history.

WYANDANCH UFSD

ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARD

Tawanna Rice

Ms. Tawanna Rice began her teaching career in the Wyandanch School District in 1999, as a special education school teacher. In 200, she became the assistant director of special education. In 2011, she became the assistant principal of LaFrancis Hardiman Elementary School. In addition to supporting the building principal with her disciplinary, administrative and supervisory roles, Ms. Rice has the capacity for fostering relationships and maintaining a culture of appreciation amongst the teaching staff and faculty. She is exemplary at recognizing and celebrating teachers and staff and their contributions to the school. Her calm demeanor and the effective way she communicates clearly and effectively with school staff, students, and parents fosters positive relationships which results in her earning the respect necessary to keep a school running.

SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Jarod B. Morris

Trustee Jarod Barry Morris is a lifelong resident of Wyandanch, New York. He received his primary education in the Wyandanch Union Free School District and is a 2016 graduate of North Babylon High School in North Babylon, New York. Upon graduation from North Babylon High, Trustee Morris went on to attend Livingstone College in Salisbury, NC. In June 2020, Trustee Morris was elected to serve as a member of the Wyandanch Union Free School District's Board of Education. Trustee Morris serves as chair of the audit committee. Trustee Morris believes the children of the district should continue to receive access to enriched learning opportunities and strives to make sure our students achieve their full potential.

Latesha Walker

Trustee Latesha S. Walker is a proud Wyandanch resident and 1996 graduate of North Babylon High School. Trustee Walker continued her academic studies at the State University of New York College at Old Westbury, where she earned an undergraduate degree in Multicultural English Literature with a minor in Pre-Law studies in May 2001. In June 2020, Trustee Walker was elected to serve as a member for the Wyandanch Union Free School District's Board of Education. In July 2020, she was elected amongst her colleagues as vice president of the Board of Education. Since she has taken the role, Vice President Walker serves as chair of the Policy and Personnel Committees and member of the Community Relations Committee.

SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARD

Sandra Martinez

Ms. Sandra Martinez came to the Wyandanch School District as an employee in 2013. She is a product of the Wyandanch School District graduating from Wyandanch Memorial High School in 2010. In

her role as the neighborhood aide for Lafrancis Hardiman Elementary she serves in multiple roles. Ms. Martinez is the district's translator and the parent liaison for Lafrancis Hardiman Elementary School, the Lafrancis Hardiman Annex and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School. Ms. Martinez is an extraordinary clerical. She assists parents, making sure every student has the technology needed to be successful. She is a team player, willing to assist colleagues, teachers and administration. Being a product of the Wyandanch community solidifies her parent relationships as one of trust, confidence and respect.

TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Ellen Benedetto

Mrs. Benedetto began her career as a reading specialist in the Wyandanch School District in 1987. Throughout her 34 year tenure, she has helped schools implement quality reading instruction that meets the needs of all students. She has also worked as a Reading Recovery teacher developing observational skills and a repertoire of intervention procedures tailored to meet the individual needs of struggling students. She provides targeted RTI Reading intervention for Tier I – III students. Her mission to improve student literacy is evident through working afterschool programs and digital platforms. In addition to academics, Mrs. Benedetto also volunteers for the school's community garden and the elementary schools environmental afterschool program The Earth Rangers. She is an educator in the truest form, adored by colleagues and administration.



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