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FORUM

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District Honorees, SCOPE Partners ARE DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Dear Readers,

The annual SCOPE Education Services School District Service Awards Dinner, held this past March, once again brought together school communities from across Nassau and Suffolk counties to celebrate excellence in public education. This year, SCOPE proudly recognized 192 outstanding award recipients, individuals who exemplify dedication, commitment and service to students and their communities.

The evening was a tremendous success, with more than 930 guests in attendance to honor this year's deserving awardees. Each honoree was nominated by their respective school district for going above and beyond in their role, making a meaningful difference in the lives of students and the strength of their school communities.

Joining me in the presentation of these awards were:

- Dr. Ken Bossert, superintendent of Great Neck Public Schools and president of the SCOPE Board of Directors.
- Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, superintendent of West Babylon School District and vice president of the SCOPE Board.
- Dr. Tim Hearney, superintendent of Bayport-Blue Point School District and treasurer of the SCOPE Board.
- Dr. John Stimmel, deputy director of SCOPE.
- Ms. Jill Gierasch, associate director of SCOPE.

It was truly an honor to stand alongside these distinguished leaders as we recognized the exceptional contributions of this year's recipients.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of

the National School Development Council's Cooperative Leadership Award to Mr. Robert Vecchio, executive director of the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association. Mr. Vecchio is a tireless advocate for public education and has dedicated his career to supporting school districts and advancing educational excellence.

Prior to his leadership at NSSBA, he served as a member of the William Floyd School District Board of Education and continues to be an active member of the Long Island Education Coalition. We are deeply grateful for his unwavering commitment to ensuring quality education for all children across New York State.

This month's edition of The Forum is dedicated to all our award recipients, as well as to the many generous sponsors who continuously support public education on Long Island. Their ongoing commitment and generosity make events like this possible, and we extend our sincere appreciation for all that they do. You will find additional information regarding our sponsors

included in this issue.

As we approach the close of another successful school year, I extend my best wishes to all our school districts and communities for a wonderful spring and a strong finish to the academic year.

Wishing each of you a relaxing, enjoyable and healthy summer.

Sincerely,
George L. Duffy
Executive Director/CEO

A Message from the Executive Director

GEORGE L. DUFFY



WHAT'S INSIDE

Annual School District Awards Dinner...PAGE 2

Congratulations Are In Order...PAGE 4

News Inside Our Schools...PAGES 4-6



SCOPE Education Services, a not-for-profit organization, is permanently chartered by the New York State Board of Regents to provide services to public-school districts on Long Island and in New York State.

SCOPE Honors 192 for Exceptional Service ACROSS LONG ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICTS

More than 930 guests gathered at Villa Lombardi's in Holbrook for SCOPE Education Services' 25th Annual School District Awards Dinner on March 23, an evening that reflected both the scale and spirit of public education across Long Island.

The event brought together educators, administrators, Board members, families and community partners from districts across the region to celebrate a shared commitment to students and to honor those whose service has made a lasting difference. SCOPE executive director and CEO George Duffy opened the evening by welcoming attendees and expressing sincere appreciation to the many individuals whose time, coordination and dedication made the milestone event possible. His remarks set the tone for an evening grounded in gratitude, reflection and pride.

This year's program carried special meaning, as it was dedicated to the memory of Jennifer Milillo, former SCOPE Awards Dinner coordinator, whose contributions were instrumental in shaping the tradition of this annual celebration. In a heartfelt moment, her daughter, Danielle Marcello, accepted flowers on behalf of her family and was met with a standing wave of applause from the ballroom, an expression of the deep respect and appreciation held by the SCOPE community.

The evening also recognized the critical role of partnership in supporting educational initiatives. Mr.



Duffy extended thanks to the event's platinum, gold, silver and bronze-level sponsors, inviting representatives from each organization to the stage to receive plaques in acknowledgment of their continued support.

A highlight of the program included the presentation of the National School Development Council's Cooperative Leadership Award to Robert Vecchio, Executive Director of the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association. Joined by his wife and daughter, Mr. Vecchio reflected on the importance of collaboration and commended both SCOPE and the school districts represented for their steadfast dedication to students and communities.

The centerpiece of the evening, the Service Awards presentation, recognized an outstanding 192 individuals from school districts across Long Island. Honorees were celebrated across five categories: Administrator, Community, School Board, Support Staff and Teacher service. Each recipient represents the very best of public education, individuals who, through



years of commitment, leadership and care, have made a meaningful and lasting impact on their school communities. From classrooms to central offices, and from behind-the-scenes support roles to visible leadership positions, the honorees reflect the breadth and depth of service required to sustain strong and thriving school systems.

As the evening concluded, one message resonated clearly: the

strength of Long Island's schools lies in its people. The Annual SCOPE School District Awards Dinner not only celebrates years of service but also reinforces a shared belief in the power of education and the individuals who dedicate their lives to it.

SCOPE is proud to continue this tradition of recognizing excellence, honoring commitment and shining a light on those who make a difference each and every day.

Charter Schools and Their Impact on Public School Communities

By **BOB VECCHIO**

Executive Director

Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association

The extraordinary growth of charter schools in recent years has taken place with little public input from the communities where these schools operate. Each May, residents across Long Island vote on school district budgets and elect members to their boards of education. Public schools must seek voter approval for budgets, capital projects, transportation changes, and reserve funds. Charter schools, however, receive more than \$500 million in taxpayer funding annually without a public vote to establish them, no annual budget vote, and limited community oversight.

Another concern centers on governance and accountability. The public does not elect charter school trustees; instead, trustees are selected by the

organizations operating the schools, while local taxpayers remain responsible for funding them. Many public-school leaders question why such significant public expenditures occur without the same transparency and public review required of traditional school districts.

Questions have also been raised regarding the authorization process for charter schools in New York State. While the New York State Education Department oversees the K-12 education system, SUNY also has the authority to approve charter schools. In recent years, many charter applications have been approved through SUNY rather than NYSED.

This issue became especially visible in Brentwood and Central Islip, where local communities strongly opposed new charter school proposals. NYSED rejected the applications based on lack of community support, yet SUNY

later approved them. Situations such as these have intensified calls for reform and greater accountability in the charter school approval process.

Many education leaders believe the authority to authorize and reauthorize charter schools should rest solely with NYSED and that communities should have a greater voice in decisions involving charter school governance and funding. Some state legislators have proposed requiring a public vote within the affected community before a charter school application can move forward.

If charter schools are considered public schools, many believe the public should have a far greater role in their oversight, governance, and financial accountability similar to the authority communities already exercise over their local public-school districts.



A Salute to SCOPE's Dedicated Sponsors



SCOPE Education Services knows that the strength of its work is directly tied to the strength of its partnerships. In reflecting on the past year, SCOPE leadership is especially grateful for the sponsors whose support has allowed the organization to expand opportunities not only for students, but for the educational leaders who shape our school communities.

Through these incredible partnerships, SCOPE has been able to support superintendents and their leadership teams in meaningful ways, strengthening networks, deepening professional learning and creating spaces where leaders can collaborate and

grow. Their investment has helped sustain and elevate initiatives such as the Women in Leadership programs, the Leadership Collaborative professional learning network and events held in conjunction with the New York State Council of School Superintendents that foster connection, idea-sharing and forward-thinking leadership across districts.

SCOPE's partners have also helped to celebrate excellence. From recognizing outstanding students at the valedictorian and salutatorian events, to honoring dedicated educators and staff at the district awards night, their support ensures that the achievements of those who serve and succeed in

the schools do not go unnoticed.

These efforts matter. They strengthen districts, support leadership and ultimately impact student outcomes in lasting ways. Their commitment reflects a shared belief in the importance of public education and the people who lead it every day.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and the many districts served, SCOPE extends its sincere thanks for the continued partnerships and generosity. SCOPE is grateful to stand alongside its partners in this important work and look forward to all that will be accomplished together in the year ahead.

Our Mission Is Stronger Because of These Partners:

Through sponsorships, collaborations, expertise and shared commitment to public education, these organizations help make possible leadership development, student programs, district support services, conferences, safety initiatives and professional learning opportunities that benefit schools across the region.

SCOPE is grateful for the continued partnership, expertise and generosity of these organizations in working together to support educational excellence throughout Long Island's school communities.



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CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

APPOINTMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD

Superintendent of Schools

The Patchogue-Medford School District Board of Education appointed Dr. Patrick G. Harrigan as its new superintendent of schools, effective July 1. Dr. Harrigan brings more than 25 years of expertise in educational administration and leadership.

He is the executive director of curriculum and instruction for the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District, a position he has held since 2024. Dr. Harrigan was the superintendent of Half Hollow Hills Central School District from 2017 to 2024 and was previously deputy superintendent from 2013 to 2017 and assistant superintendent from 2005 to 2013. Previous positions include director of special education in Farmingdale Public Schools, principal and director of educational services at the Maryhaven Center of Hope School Age Program, and assistant principal in the Miller Place School District, where he began working as a teacher in 1996.



Dr. Harrigan received his bachelor's degree in economics and his advanced graduate certificate in school administration from Stony Brook University. He earned his master's degree in education and doctorate in educational administration, leadership and technology from Dowling College. Additionally, Dr. Harrigan has served as an adjunct professor at Molloy University and Touro University, and as an executive coach for doctoral candidates at Russell Sage College. Memberships include the New York State Council of School Superintendents House of Delegates, the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association, the SCOPE Journal for Leadership and Instruction, and the Energeia Partnership, and advisory boards for Long Island University and Molloy University.

PLAINEDGE

Superintendent of Schools

The Board of Education of Plainedge Public Schools appointed Dr. Christopher R. Zublionis as superintendent of schools, beginning July 1. Dr. Zublionis was selected following a seven-month national search process and brings nearly three decades of experience in education to Plainedge.

He is superintendent of the North Shore Central School District, a position he has held since 2022, and was previously the district's assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. He has served as a social studies teacher, baseball coach and union building representative in the West Babylon and Syosset schools



before moving into administration as director of social studies and building principal in North Shore. Throughout his time in administration, Dr. Zublionis has led key initiatives driving instructional improvement, professional learning and student support systems.

Dr. Zublionis holds a master's degree in social studies education from Teachers College Columbia University and a Doctor of Education degree in curriculum and instruction, as well as advanced certifications in school and district leadership. He has taught graduate-level courses in education while contributing to conference presentations on curriculum development, research and professional development.

HEWLETT-WOODMERE

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations

Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools has appointed Richard Snyder, CPA, as assistant superintendent of business and operations, effective March 5. Approved by the Board of Education on Feb. 25, Mr. Snyder brings more than 20 years of experience in school finance, operations and leadership. He most recently served in the Amityville Union Free School District and has held key roles in several Long Island districts, managing budgets and leading capital projects.



Superintendent Dr. Dina M. Anzalone cited his expertise in fiscal planning and transparency as a

strong asset. Mr. Snyder expressed his commitment to maintaining financial stability and supporting student success.

HALF HOLLOW HILLS

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

The Half Hollow Hills Board of Education announced that Michael Trucchio has been appointed assistant superintendent for human resources, effective July 1. A longtime member of the Half Hollow Hills community as a student, teacher and administrator, Mr. Trucchio brings extensive experience and a deep understanding of the district to his new role.



He most recently served as the district's director of middle school special education.

NEWS INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS

OYSTER BAY-EAST NORWICH

Junior Earns Top Honors at Science and Engineering Fair

Oyster Bay High School junior Chrysta Thomas earned first place in the Biomedical and Health Sciences category at the New York State Science and Engineering Fair. Her project, "Shaped by Signals: Leveraging Breast Cancer Nuclear Morphology to Elucidate Regulatory Pathways as Therapeutic Targets," identifies a molecular mechanism behind abnormal cell growth in breast cancer and points to potential targets for more precise treatments. Chrysta is one of just 16 NYSSEF finalists selected to



compete at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix this May.

UNIONDALE

Show Choir Named Grand Champion of FAME Orlando Competition

The Uniondale Rhythm of the Knight Show Choir achieved remarkable success at the FAME Orlando Show Choir of America 2026 competition in Orlando, Florida. The choir was named the grand champion, received the FAME Award and captured honors for best vocals, best choreography and best original song. The Rhythm of the Knight Show Choir's accomplishments also qualified Uniondale to compete at nationals in Bran-



son, Missouri. These competitions are a life-changing opportunity for Uniondale students to proudly showcase their talents and represent their district and community on the national stage.



BAYPORT-BLUE POINT

Holocaust Survivor Shares Powerful Testimony at Middle School

Students at James Wilson Young Middle School in the Bayport-Blue Point School District had the rare opportunity to hear from Holocaust survivor Meir Usherovitz. Joined by his daughter, Mr. Usherovitz spoke about his early life and the profound changes he endured as a young person during one of history's darkest periods. His reflections helped connect historical events to real human experiences in a meaningful way. The visit encouraged students to reflect on the impact of prejudice and the responsibility of future generations to remember the past. Mr. Usherovitz's story underscored the importance of compassion, understanding and standing against injustice.



VALLEY STREAM 13

Library Renovation Unveiled at Howell Road

Howell Road Elementary School in Valley Stream UFSD 13 celebrated the grand reopening of its renovated library with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by students, administrators and local leaders. The redesigned space reflects the school's commitment to inclusive, engaging learning environments. The updated library features a brighter design, a diverse and culturally responsive book collection, and flexible seating options such as reading nooks and collaborative work areas. Expanded instructional spaces support group learning and independent exploration.

Superintendent Dr. Judith LaRocca and Board of Education members joined the celebration, recognizing the library's positive impact on teaching and learning and its role in fostering a lifelong love of reading.

MIDDLE COUNTRY

Student Leaders Visit State Capitol

More than 40 students from the Middle Country School District's Student Legislative Ad Hoc Committee, representing grades 9-12 from Centerach and Newfield high schools, participated in Legislative Advocacy Day at the New York State Capitol in Albany. During the morning session, students met with local legislators and representatives from across Long Island and the state who serve on various education committees. Students advocated for funding and programs of personal and district importance, such as universal pre-K, special education, school meals and mental health services. The afternoon included a tour of the New York State Capitol, where students explored the site's history and gained a deeper understanding of the legislative process. Following the tour, students visited the floor of the New York State Assembly, where they were formally introduced and recognized at the opening of the legislative session.



SOUTH COUNTRY

Students Earn College Credit Through Dual Enrollment Program

Bellport High School in the South Country School District is expanding opportunities for high school students to earn college credit while still in high school through its growing dual enrollment program. This year, the school added seven dual enrollment courses through Suffolk County Community College, including Advanced Placement Italian, College Spanish, Introduction to Culinary Arts, Marketing, Music Theory, Piano I and Vir-



PLAINVIEW-OLD BETHPAGE

Students Build Civic Engagement Across Grades

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School's Student Civic Ambassador Program, led by adviser Maria Carnesi, brings high school students into elementary and middle schools to promote civic values. At the elementary level, students led activities focused on character development. Middle school students read "Let the Children March" and participated in guided discussions on civic responsibility and leadership. The program gives students across the district meaningful, hands-on opportunities to understand leadership and what it means to be responsible, engaged citizens.



SMITHTOWN

DECA Earns Advocacy Accolades

Smithtown High School East DECA was the only team in New York to receive the prestigious Advocacy Campaign national recognition. During February, which is also CTE Month, students were tasked with reaching out to their state and federal policy makers to advocate for the advancement of Career and Technical Education. The DECA team's hard work and dedication didn't stop there. Students also earned well-deserved accolades in the categories of Community Service, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Membership and Promotions.

tual Enterprise. These are in addition to two courses already offered through Long Island University – Honors College English and Public Speaking and Debate.

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the district will expand its dual enrollment opportunities through Suffolk County Community College and Five Towns College. Planned additions include College French, Computer Graphics, Concert Orchestra, French IV, Italian IV, Mixed Chorus, Piano II, Spanish IV and Wind Ensemble. Dual enrollment courses are offered at a reduced cost to students.





EAST ISLIP

French Club Says 'Oui' to Cheese

East Islip High School's French Club hosted its first after-school "Cheese and Chat" event, featuring a mini lesson on cheese by Nicole Nash, a 4-H Agriculture Program educator from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County. Nash's presentation explained how cheese is made and included a guided tasting of four French cheeses: Brie, Comte, Roquefort and fresh chevre. Students and club adviser Maya Iwanejko learned about the cheeses' origins, milk types and flavor profiles while engaging in lively discussion.



BELLMORE

An 'Egg-Citing' Experience With Chick Hatch

Kindergartners at Reinhard Early Childhood Center in the Bellmore School District recently had an exciting opportunity to watch baby chicks hatch right before their eyes. From tiny cracks in the eggs to fluffy new friends, this hands-on experience brought learning to life in a memorable way. They observed as the eggs were kept warm under incubators, and excitement grew as they began to crack. It was not only an adorable experience for the young learners, but also a meaningful learning opportunity. Rising Star Leaders explored life cycles and practiced patience, responsibility and care as they watched and learned about living things.

BALDWIN

District Integrates AI-Powered Lifelike Patient Simulators Into Curriculum

The Baldwin Union Free School District is advancing its commitment to real-world learning by providing students access to AI-powered medical manikins, or patient simulators. These lifelike manikins mimic human movement and speech, allowing students who aspire to work in the medical field and are part of Baldwin High School's Medical and Health Sciences Academy to practice patient care using realistic scenarios. The "robots" can mimic medical emergencies and are programmed with a variety of medical history backgrounds. Baldwin is among the first K-12 districts nationwide to utilize this innovative technology, typically reserved for medical schools and college-level programs.



BRENTWOOD

Elementary Students Visit Restored Schoolhouse

Students from Southwest Elementary School in Brentwood were the first to visit the district's historic schoolhouse on a field trip on April 14 following a lengthy restoration. The octagonal schoolhouse was built in 1857 by Brentwood residents seeking to create an ideal society called Modern Times. The utopian settlement spanned 90 acres and was founded on individual liberty, without a criminal justice system or taxes. By the end of this school year, every fourth grade class in Brentwood will have taken a journey through local history – in their own backyard – some 160 years later.

HARBORFIELDS

Students Celebrate America's Milestone With Passbook

In honor of America's 250th anniversary, all Harborfields students received the Long Island 250th Anniversary Passbook. Washington Drive Primary School and Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School made the distribution especially memorable, with students and staff dressing in historical attire, playing music and sharing engaging facts about Long Island's rich Revolutionary War history.



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MASSAPEQUA

High School Bakers Give Back

Just before spring break, students from Massapequa High School's culinary arts classes took part in the King Arthur Baking Company's Bake For Good initiative. Each group baked two loaves of bread, one to donate and another to eat. The young chefs prepared the dough on March 30, then shaped and baked the loaves the following day. On April 1, they donated 50 loaves of fresh bread to the YES Community Counseling



Center food pantry, which were then provided to local families for holiday meals. Classes that participated in the initiative included College Art of Baking, College Food for Fitness and International Foods.

MINEOLA

District Recognized as NYSATA Community of Excellence in Visual Arts

Mineola Public Schools has been recognized as a Community of Excellence in Visual Arts by the New York State Art Teachers Association. This prestigious honor includes the 2025 VISION Endorsement, a distinction awarded to districts that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to high-quality visual arts education.

The VISION – Visual Arts Instruction, Standards and Opportu-



nities Network – endorsement is a rigorous credential that evaluates school districts based on their ability to provide comprehensive, equitable and sustainable arts programming.

ELWOOD

Kindergartners Learn Health and Safety at Teddy Bear Clinic

Kindergarten students at Elwood's Harley Avenue Primary School recently took part in a hands-on Teddy Bear Clinic led by Stacey Pinto, a trauma injury prevention specialist from Catholic Health's Good Samaritan University Hospital. The engaging program introduced young learners to basic medical safety and injury pre-



vention in a fun and age-appropriate way. Following a brief lesson, students stepped into the role of caregivers, donning surgical caps and gloves as they treated their own "injured" stuffed animals.

SCSSA Spring Workshop Spotlights Technology, Connects Educators

By **TIM EAGEN**

SCSSA President

Superintendent, Kings Park School District

The Suffolk County School Superintendents Association collaborated with SCOPE and Stony Brook University for their eighth annual spring workshop on April 23 at the Hilton Garden Inn on the SBU campus. Suffolk County Executive Edward Romaine kicked off the event with an energizing keynote presentation that focused on the need for workforce development.

The workshop itself focused on New York State's Portrait of a Graduate and its intersection with dual enrollment (academic rigor) and the future of artificial intelligence and education. As examples of academic rigor, educators from Kings Park (Timothy Eagen, superintendent, and Jennifer Martino, high school principal) and Hampton Bays (Lars Clemensen, superintendent) presented their current dual enrollment offerings.

Following these presentations, 13 local colleges and universities presented "elevator speeches" on their dual enrollment programs and options. It



was exciting to engage with our higher education partners and learn from them. The following local colleges and universities were represented: Adelphi University, Farmingdale State College, Five Towns College, Hofstra University, Long Island University, Molloy University, Nassau Community College, New York Institute of Technology, St. John's University, St. Joseph's University, Stony Brook University, Suffolk County Community College



and SUNY Old Westbury.

Before and after lunch, we switched gears to the current and future impact of AI and news literacy on education. Lav Varshney, the Della Pietra Infinity Professor and inaugural director of the AI Innovation Institute at Stony Brook University, provided a big-picture overview of AI, addressing four key questions:

- What must I understand right now?
- What does this mean for my district/institution?
- How can AI inform the Portrait of a Graduate?
- What will I do differently tomorrow?

Mr. Varshney's research interests include information theory and artificial intelligence. Howard Schneider, executive director of the SBU Center for News Literacy, and Shari Camhi, retired superintendent from the Baldwin Union Free School District and AASA past president, presented

on the topic of news, media and AI literacy. Mr. Schneider helped to lead the effort to establish the Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook in 2009. Lastly, Timothy Needles presented a session on "AI Best Practices in K-12 Schools." He is a published author, technology integration teacher at Smithtown High School and an adjunct professor at Adelphi University.

We concluded the day with an open-forum discussion on the topics that were presented. This was a wonderful opportunity for K-12 and higher education professionals to share thoughts, ideas and concerns about educating today's youth. It is with great gratitude that SCSSA recognizes all our partners that contributed to the success of this full-day workshop. It was particularly exciting to engage with our higher education partners and learn as a P-20 community. Together we can ensure the success of today's youth!

Celebrating Excellence Is the Hallmark of NCCSS

By **MARIE TESTA**

NCCSS President

Superintendent, North Bellmore School District

Each year, the Nassau County Council of School Superintendents proudly brings its core values to life, celebrating excellence, honoring service and championing student success across Nassau County through impactful signature initiatives such as the Celebrating Excellence and Legacy of Dr. James Tolle Academic Awards Celebration and the NCCSS Senior Essay Scholarship Contest.

Organized by the NCCSS Celebrating Excellence Committee, chaired by Mary O'Meara, superintendent of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District, the Celebrating Excellence and Legacy of Dr. James Tolle Academic Awards Celebration is a long-standing tradition dedicated to academic excellence. The event honors valedictorians and salutatorians from across Nassau County and brings together students, families, principals, superintendents and education partners in a joyful celebration.

This year's celebration at the Crest Hollow Country Club welcomes more than 400 guests,

Superintendents and principals will be seated with valedictorians, salutatorians and their families, reflecting the strong partnerships within Nassau County's school communities. Superintendents serving on the Celebrating Excellence Committee will recognize each honoree, including their college selection. Each student will receive a commemorative award recognizing years of dedication, perseverance and academic excellence. A highlight of the program is the keynote address and musical performances that enhance the celebratory spirit of the morning. At its core, the celebration reflects gratitude and shared accomplishment, and families are honored for the essential role they play in supporting each graduate's journey.

The event also honors the legacy of Dr. James Tolle, former NCCSS executive director, whose leadership continues to inspire public education across Nassau County and New York State.

The NCCSS Senior Essay Scholarship Contest is another signature initiative that supports future educators. High school seniors from across Nassau County submit essays reflecting their motivation to enter the field of education. This year's recipients represent the Garden City, Herricks, Hewlett-Woodmere and Massapequa school districts,

representing each of the county's four quadrants and recognizing both academic promise and commitment to service.

Sincere appreciation is extended to Executive Director George Duffy and the SCOPE team, NCCSS's strategic partner, for their outstanding support of Nassau County school districts. Through student programs, professional development opportunities and collaboration, SCOPE continues to uphold excellence in public education throughout Nassau County. We are especially grateful for its participation in the Celebrating Excellence and Legacy of Dr. James Tolle Academic Awards Celebration, including the donation of commemorative journals for each valedictorian and salutatorian, honoring students across Nassau County.

NCCSS looks forward to its annual Professional Development Day on May 28, where we partner with Nassau Association of District Curriculum Officials for a day of collaborative learning and celebration. As the year closes, we will also honor our colleagues Dr. Ed Salina and Dr. Michael Nagler, with gratitude for their service to their students, communities and NCCSS.



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THE VOICE OF LONG ISLAND EDUCATION

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The Forum can be accessed online at
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If you have information about your school district that you would like to share, please send it to Jill Gierasch at jgierasch@scopeonline.us or Andrew Hackmack at ahackmack@syntaxny.com.