

NEWS

Connecticut Department of Education

Dr. Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner

For Immediate Release:
Contact: Tom Murphy 860.713.6525



Thursday, November 6, 2008

Connecticut's 2009 Teacher of the Year Built upon First Career at NYPD to Become Champion of At-Risk Teens

(GREENWICH, CONN.) - Connecticut's 2009 Teacher of the Year worked his way through college while rising in the ranks of the New York City Police Department. His second career as a teacher in Greenwich's ARCH School, an alternative high school for at-risk and special needs teens, has given him a chance to make a difference in the lives of some of the district's most challenged students.

Anthony J. Mullen, a former NYC police captain, was named today as Connecticut's 2009 Teacher of the Year at a ceremony presided over by state Education Commissioner Mark K. McQuillan.

"Anthony Mullen knows what the phrase "No Child Left Behind" truly means when it comes to helping his students. Teachers who work with our most challenged youngsters are dedicated professionals who can make all the difference in helping them to find success in the world. They work miracles every day to turn around students' lives," said Commissioner McQuillan as he introduced Mullen.

Governor M. Jodi Rell offered her congratulations, saying, "Teaching is a calling. It is challenging work to meet the needs of children every day, and I cannot emphasize enough the impact that our teachers' efforts — and their success — have on our state's future. My best wishes go to Tony Mullen as Connecticut's 2009 Teacher of the Year and to all educators who, each day, make a difference in the lives of children."

"The NYPD provided plenty of opportunity to work with troubled teenagers – young people destined for prison unless they received the benefits of a quality education and positive adult role models. I wanted to be that role model," stated the honoree.

Mullen has been teaching in Greenwich for seven years. He is highly regarded by students, staff and administrators. He has introduced several new courses to engage his students, including forensics, electronics, carpentry and horticulture. He is credited with having high energy and an enthusiastic spirit in his classroom, where his goal is to help students overcome obstacles in order to earn their high school diploma. His approach is hands-on and practical with a mix of good humor.

Connecticut's Teacher of the Year is selected from among thousands of education professionals in participating public school districts across the state. He will become Connecticut's nominee for National Teacher of the Year which will be announced by President Barack Obama in April at the White House.

The Connecticut Teacher of the Year represents the state's 50,000 public school teachers in many forums and advisory roles during the year, providing a voice for classroom teachers and their students statewide.