

Finalists

Dr. Cellastine Pleasant Bailey
Rebecca M. Johnson School
Springfield Public Schools

Francis P. Funai
Springfield Central High School
Springfield Public Schools

SiriNam S. Khalsa
John F. Kennedy Middle
School
Springfield Public Schools

Roberta A. Camacho, Ph.D.
Robert G. O'Donnell Middle
School
Stoughton Public Schools

Zach Galvin
Natick High School
Natick Public Schools

Beverly Amaral Tavares
Mount Pleasant School
New Bedford Public Schools

Judi Freeman
Boston Latin School
Boston Public Schools

Cheryl Christo Hemenway
Arlington High School
Arlington Public Schools

SemiFinalists

Debra M. Carson
Everett High School
Everett Public Schools

Kathleen M. Hogan
Mary Lee Burbank School
Belmont Public Schools

Marilyn McLaughlin Poole
Wellington Elementary School
Belmont Public Schools

Darcy Marie Fernandes
Wareham Middle School
Wareham Public Schools

Elaine Metropolis
Welch Elementary School
Peabody Public Schools

David James Stubbart
Armstrong Elementary School
Westborough Public Schools

David M. Harris
Galvin Middle School
Wakefield Public Schools

Susan K. Perron
Northbridge Primary School
Northbridge Public Schools

Margaret H. Woodcome
J. F. Kennedy Middle School
Hudson Public Schools

Contact Information

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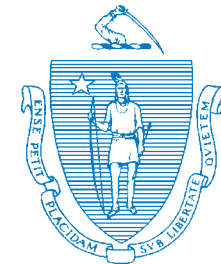
Topics for Consultation

- ◆ Celebrating Our Global Community through Mask-Making; An integrated lesson for elementary, middle and high schools
- ◆ "Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Court is now in session!" The mock trial experience for elementary, middle and high school students
- ◆ Community Service Learning: The Springfield Experience - Leading Students to Activism
- ◆ Technology and the Curriculum Even in Difficult Economic Times and How It Works in an Urban Setting
- ◆ How Integration Can Work Across the Curriculum



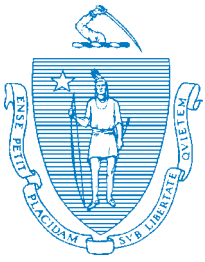
Melinda A. Pellerin-Duck
The High School of Commerce
Springfield Public Schools

Meet the 2004 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year



a program sponsored by the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Education





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Education

350 Main Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148

June 26, 2003

Dear Friends,

Teaching is both an art and science; the most difficult, most rewarding and most important of careers. While all classroom teachers should be recognized on a daily basis, the National Teacher of the Year Program is the oldest and most prestigious awards program that focuses public attention annually on excellence in teaching. Since 1952, the national program (co-sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers and Scholastic Inc.) has recognized and honored the contributions of classroom teachers by granting one outstanding teacher a year's paid sabbatical. During that year, the teacher travels the nation and meets with a wide variety of audiences to address educational issues.

The Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Program is administered by the Massachusetts Department of Education. Each year the program honors a Massachusetts teacher who exemplifies fine teaching in the Commonwealth. The purpose of the program is to select a teacher who is worthy of speaking for and energizing the teaching profession, and representing the positive contributions of all teachers statewide. The Massachusetts Teacher of the Year automatically becomes the state's candidate for the National Teacher of the Year Program.

The selection process for the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year begins early in the calendar year with a call for nominations. An independent panel of experts, including past Teachers of the Year, reviewed written applications, interviewed 9 finalists, and made recommendations of the top candidates for my consideration for this year's honor.

I wish to thank the following corporations and organizations for supporting the 2004 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Program: AlphaSmart, Inc.; Dr. Sandra Stotsky; LeapFrog SchoolHouse; Massachusetts Teachers Association; NEC Solutions, Visual Systems Division; SMARTer Kids Foundation; SMART Technologies, Inc.; Teacher Leadership Academy; and Verizon.

I am proud to present the 2004 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, Melinda Pellerin-Duck, history, technology and resource teacher in the Springfield Public School District. We wish her much energy and happiness in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

Meet the 2004 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year

The High School of Commerce • Springfield Public Schools

Melinda Pellerin-D

is as excited about teaching today as she was when she began teaching twenty-three years ago at Springfield's Van Sickle Junior High School. Throughout her long and distinguished career teaching middle and high school in her hometown, Melinda has always found teaching to be an incredible experience; a labor of love.

Melinda currently serves as a Resource Teacher at The High School of Commerce in Springfield, the first school in Massachusetts to develop and be approved to offer the rigorous International Baccalaureate Program. As a Resource Teacher, Melinda works with teams of teachers to develop and deliver an integrated curriculum that includes all subject areas. In addition to developing lessons with teachers, and creating professional development workshops to support her colleagues, Melinda teaches social studies, technology, and law-related education. Melinda also serves as the advisor to the school's successful Mock Trial Team.

Melinda's goal is to help young people be productive, caring, active members of our global community. To that end, every day in every class Melinda asks herself: "Through my knowledge and expertise, how can I affect a student's life in a positive way today?" Melinda believes that curriculum must be interesting, relevant, exciting, challenging and a celebration of diverse cultures and experiences. Classrooms, she believes, must be filled with living histories. Students learn by participation and they must play an active role in their own education.

To bring this philosophy to life, Melinda strives to work closely with her colleagues across subjects. One such collaboration supported students in their production of a video entitled: "My City, Springfield, Massachusetts". This video, produced in collaboration with a foreign language teacher, was viewed by students in the Ivory Coast and resulted in a pen-pal relationship between the two schools.

While at The High School of Commerce in the late eighties, Melinda mentored students who went on to take second place in the Massachusetts Mock Trial Competition, the first Western Massachusetts inner-city school district to ever do so well. Melinda also helped the High School of Commerce become the first school to receive a MITRE TECHNOLOGY GRANT, which technologically transformed teachers' classrooms. The project culminated with a visit from Senator Kennedy's staff to classrooms to meet with students and to observe effective technology integration.

Melinda earned a B.A. at Annhurst College in History with a minor in Secondary Education and a Master's Degree in Educational Technology from Lesley University.



Melinda Pellerin-Duck with her students