

## **Board Awards February 26, 2014**

### Academics

**National AP Scholar:** Congratulations to Hall student **Chengchen Zhang** for being named a National AP Scholar, a recognition granted to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on 8 or more of these exams.

**National Merit Semifinalist:** About 1.5 million juniors in some 22,000 high schools entered the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2012 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQY), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The Nationwide pool of semifinalists, which represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of Semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors. Congratulations to Conard student **Jordan Hutensky** for being named a National Merit Semifinalist.

**Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship:** The College Board recognizes students whose High Selection Index places them among the top 5% of more than 1.5 million students who took the preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in the fall of 2012. The following Conard and Hall High School students have qualified for this award: **Zev Beigel, Jared Berson, Jacob Binder, Isaiah Boden, Aiden Busby-Mott, Connor Dalton, Ilan Desai-Geller, Christopher Dickson, Michael**

Feldman, Jessica Fernandes, Maria Flanders, Alice Fraioli, Sol-Atiya Galvan, Luke Haggerty, Eliane Helitzer, Matthew Henderson, Timothy Henning, Emily Isko, Randall Kayser, Celeste Kurz, Mohammed Malik, Elizabeth McKell, Marisa Mitrano, Renee Powell, Susan Rattigan, Kellianne Reale, Caroline Reger, Rebecca Schwartz, Samuel Slate

**AP Scholar Award:** This award is given to those students who have completed 3 or more AP exams with grades 3 or higher. The following Conard and Hall High School students that have qualified for the AP Scholar Award: **Nicholas Adams, Benjamin Alpert, Andrej Antic, Nathaniel Aponte, Katica Barbul, Jared Berson, Peter Braunstein, Travis Busch, Francisco Cruz-Uribe, Yashsvi Dave, Shubham Dhakal, Christopher Dickson, Michael Feldman, Jack Flege, John Floyd, Alice Fraioli, Margaret Geisler, Thomas Gerity, Matthew Houpert, Qiansheng Hu, William Kerin, Daniel Kovner, Emma Krueger, Tyler Lauretti, Sydney Lerner, Beatrice Lynch, Daniel Magin, Zachary Magin, Griffin Marie, Mark Molinaro, Ali Morgan, Brian O'Shea, Liam O'Shea, Susan Rattigan, Kellianne Reale, Katherine Riedling, Benjamin Rosenfeld, Danielle Silver, Reid Silverhart, Ethan Swain, Katherine Thomas, Hailey Townsend, Tommy Trieu, Annabel Utz, Alana Waggoner, Liya Wizevich, Rebecca Zeiger.**

**AP Scholar with Honor:** This award is given to students who earn an average of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and grades 3 or higher on 4 or more AP Exams. The following Conard and Hall High School students have qualified for this award: **Sharon Cherian, Alysia Clymer, Connor Dalton, Jessica Fernandes, Eliane Helitzer, Hunter Hollant, Emily Isko, Daniela Jerez, Jacob Kerzner, Stone Li, Sara Lebow, Kerry McFadden,**

**Michael McGuinness, Elizabeth McKell, Benjamin McMahon, Charles McMahon, Robert Petry, Jody Phelps, Michael Shea, Samuel Slate, Anvin Thomas, David Walsh, Grace Woods, Cory Zeng**

**AP Scholar with Distinction:** This award is granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on 5 or more exams.

The following Conard and Hall High School students have qualified for this award: **Cora Allen, Jacob Binder, Isaiah Boden, Aiden Busby-Mott, Vera Costillo, Vy Dang, Iian Desai-Geller, Madeleine Dickinson, Maria Flanders, Rachel Golden, Luke Haggerty, Edward Huang, Jordan Hutensky, Celeste Kurz, Xuan Liu, Mohammed Malik, Marisa Mitrano, Lauren Sorgio, Aidan Watson, Sarah Whitney, Chengchen Zhang**

**National Achievement Scholarship Semifinalist:** This program is a privately financed academic competition. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation has announced the *Semifinalists in the National Achievement Scholarship Program for the Class of 2014*. Hall senior **Sol-Atiya Galvan**, is one of 1,600 students nationally to be designated as a semifinalist. More than 160,000 high school juniors from throughout the United States requested consideration in the 2014 National Achievement Scholarship Program when they took the 2012 PSAT examination. To advance to the finalist level, semifinalists must present a record of high academic performance throughout high school, be endorsed by the principal, write an essay, show involvement in school and community activities and demonstrate leadership abilities.

**Mathematical Association of America:** The American Mathematics Competition Grade 8 (AMC 8) is a 25- question, 40-minute exam. The content of the exam focuses on middle school mathematics, and it is designed to assess the development and enhancement of problem-solving skills. Many problems are intended to challenge students by offering problem-solving experiences beyond those provided in most middle school mathematics classes.

By virtue of their scores, the following students have earned *Gold Medal* status from the Mathematical Association of America: **Avery Glagovich**, Bristow Middle School, **Junjie Jin** and **Jake Zweifler** from King Philip Middle School and **Arjun Jagjivan** from Sedgwick Middle School.

**National Center for Women and Information Technology:** This award for *Aspirations in Computing* honors young women at the high school level for their computer related achievements and interests. Awardees are selected for their computing and IT aptitude, leadership ability, academic history, and plans for post- secondary education. Recipients receive opportunities for scholarships, internships, research experiences, and other educational and employment opportunities provided by NCWIT member organizations. Each local award taps into the powerful network of NCWIT Alliance members: teams from academia, non-profit organizations, startups, and corporations come together to build a community of support for young women interested in computing. Congratulations to Conard High School students **Vera Castillo** and **Kelly Jones** for being named the recipients of the *NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing*.

**Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching:**

Congratulations to Conard High School mathematics teacher **Jacqueline Corricelli** for

being named the *CT State Finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching*. The Presidential Award recognizes teachers who develop and implement a high-quality instructional program that is informed by content knowledge and enhances student learning. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education. Up to 108 awards are presented each year to representatives of each of the 50 states as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Dept. of Defense Education Activity Schools, and the US territories. The program is administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. State finalists are chosen by a panel of their peers as well as administrators. Finalists are then reviewed by a national panel of scientists, mathematicians and educators who recommend a finalist for the national award. Selection as a national winner includes a monetary award as well as an all-expense paid trip for two to Washington, D.C. where they will be recognized by the President of the United States at the Capitol.

**CT 2013 History Teacher of the Year:** Congratulations to Webster Hill Elementary School fifth grade teacher **Jeffrey Cowan**, for being named the *CT 2013 History Teacher of the Year* by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Awards are given to teachers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense schools and US Territories. The Award is given to creative teachers who demonstrate “effective use of documents, artifacts, historic sites, oral histories and other primary resources to engage students with American history.” Mr. Cowan’s students participate in a year- long government simulation. They elect leaders, create their own currency, hold senate meetings and pass bills on things

like extended recess time and choosing seats in the lunchroom. This experience enhances their understanding when they take field trips to the Capitol and the legislative building.

**CT Educators Computer Association:** The CECA awarded **Kathy Hardesty**, Quest teacher from Smith STEM School, an award for bringing video conferencing to all grade levels at Smith. Because of this program, students were able to chat with NASA scientists, visit zoos, talk with engineers, and learn about science via this interactive web presence. The CT Educators Computer Association annually grants up to three awards of \$1,000 each to recognize excellence in the integration of technology into classroom learning.

**FIRST LEGO League:** Two robotics teams from Smith STEM School took home honors in a qualifying competition for FIRST LEGO League. Twenty-three teams from the area competed at the event, themed “Nature’s Fury,” in hopes of advancing to the FLL state finals. The Smith STEM Mindstorm, a group of Quest 5<sup>th</sup> graders and one 6<sup>th</sup> grade alumni, finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in robot points and went home with a “*Robot Performance Award.*” The Smith STEM Savers, comprised of after-school 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade STEM PM students, captured the “*Robot Design*” award. Each team had to build a robot to perform tasks such as moving small Lego vehicles to specific positions on the table. They were also judged on in-depth interviews with judges about their robot design, their community project about natural disasters, and their core values working as a team. As a result of their scores, both teams advanced to the State finals. This was impressive because out of 23 teams, mostly middle school age, only 6 qualified. Great job Smith STEM School! The following students are member of the Quest STEM Mindstorm Team and the Smith STEM Savers Team:

Mindstorm Team: **Sean Dombrofski, Sam Frank, Gavin Belcher, Angelique Phillips, Maya Perdomo, Zachary Marques, Fiona Fitzpatrick, Noah Behrens-Gould, Margaret Rousseau**

Smith STEM Savers Team: **Daniel Kamin, Nicolai Yanko, Eli Towey, Thomas Aisevbonaye, Elizabeth Horan, Luke Dunlap, Rohan Venkatesh, Maceo Hertz-Velazquez, Jaeden Frankhauser, Jack Wenz**

**National History Day:** After months of intensive research and success at Regional and State level competitions, **Alanna Uthgenannt** and **Sam Porcello**, currently ninth grade students at Conard High School, represented CT at the annual Kenneth B. Behring National History Day Contest. The contest was held at the University of Maryland, College Park Campus in the Washington, D.C. area last June and involved more than 2,800 students from all 50 states, Puerto Rico and many American defense locations in Asia and Europe. Alanna took *First Place in the Junior Individual Performance*. Alanna has represented the Quest Program at Sedgwick Middle School for two years at the state level and in 2013 at the national level. **Sam Porcello**, took *Second Place in the Junior Individual Exhibit for "The Hartford Circus Fire: A 10 Minute Turning Point Sparks Lasting Change."* Sam has represented the Quest Program and Sedgwick Middle School for three years at the national level. Alanna and Sam were students of Quest teacher, **Mrs. Jennifer Hunt**.

**CT State Technology Student Association:** Congratulations to Sedgwick students **Ben Ratchford** and **Trevor Ratchford** for receiving the *Gold Achievement Award* from the CT State Technology Student Association. The TSA Achievement Program is designed to motivate and recognize student members for high effort in a school's technology education program. Ben and Trevor were both awarded the Gold Achievement Award this past

summer at the 2013 National TSA Conference. Ben and Trevor have both been members of the TSA for three years. Ben is Vice-President in the Sedgwick TSA Chapter this year and Trevor is Vice President in the CT State TSA and was an officer in the Sedgwick chapter last year.

## **Athletics**

**All-State:** All-State student athletes have distinguished themselves as elite athletes in their sports in the state of CT. The criteria for All-State recognition varies from sport to sport. Criteria in individual sports are dependent upon overall placement in state championship meets, while team sport individuals are nominated and selected by the state coaches of that sport. The following Conard and Hall students have been recognized by the CT High School Coaches' Association for outstanding ability in their sports:

All State Swimming: **Clara Capone** and **Tara Tiernan**

All State, All New England, All Conference and All American in Soccer: **Matheus Souza**

All State and All New England in Soccer: **Allyson Swaby**

All State Field Hockey Second Team: **Kathleen Keegan**

All State Field Hockey First Team and All State All Academic Team: **Beatrice Lynch**

All State Cross Country and All New England Cross Country: **Ari Klau**

All State Cross Country: **Elizabeth Lagoy**

All State Cross Country and All New England Cross Country: **Zachary Magin**

All State Football: **Matt Houpert**



### **The CT Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance:**

Congratulations to **Rosey Bonner**, physical education and health department supervisor, for being named the recipient of the *Professional Service Award*. This award recognizes a professional who has demonstrated many years of commitment and service that impacts not only their own district and schools, but also impacts health and physical education professionals throughout the state. **Rosey** is also a member of the state HEAP (Health Education Assessment Program) Cadre, where she conducts workshops on the practice of standards-based health teaching and assessment. **Rosey** has been part of several writing teams, helping to craft the current Connecticut Standards *Healthy and Balanced Framework* document, as well as the newly released tools to help teachers navigate through the new state evaluation system. During her tenure as Department Supervisor, Rosey has presented across the state and at CTAHPERD conferences on topics such as *Designing Quality Health Education Curriculum*, *Best Practices in Sexuality Education*, *HEART-Elementary Nutrition Education that Makes a Difference*, *Gambling-Beat the Addiction*, and *A Conceptual Approach to Invasion Sports that Really Improves Student Performance*.

**Jared Leghorn**, a physical and health education teacher at Bristow Middle School, was selected by The Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, to receive the *Outstanding New Professional Award for 2013*. The criteria for the award included the following:

- Demonstrates passion, commitment and skill in teaching
- Models a healthy, active lifestyle
- Serves as a role model for students, staff and the community at-large
- Demonstrates involvement in school culture and learning community

Jared was honored at the CTAHPERD awards banquet in November.

**Kathy Miller**, physical education teacher at Smith STEM School and her activity called “Climb Across America,” was selected by CT Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance for the *Outstanding Program Award for 2013*. “Climb Across America” was highlighted at the CTAHPERD fall conference in November as well as in the fall issue of The Bulletin, CTAHPERD’s news magazine. Kathy was honored at the CTAHPERD awards banquet in November.

**State XC Championship:** Congratulations to **Matthew Remigino** for placing *Third* in a 2.3 mile race. 55 teams from throughout CT took part in the race. Matthew was representing Sedgwick Middle School Intramural XC Squad. He ran a 5.31 pace. Matthew was the Team Leader for Sedgwick’s Intramural X country group.

### **Leadership**

**CABE:** Congratulations to the West Hartford Board of Education for receiving the Level One Leadership Award from Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor during the annual CABE/CAPSS Convention held in November. CABE believes that Boards of Education and Superintendents which exhibit effective leadership are characterized by their ability to work together as teams. The CABE Board Recognition Awards are designed to recognize Boards which meet 22 of the 34 Level One criteria, including a minimum of three in each area, earn the Level One CABE Board Leadership Award. These areas include board leadership, student achievement, Board member professional development, policy, community relations, and related organizational leadership. Accepting on behalf of the

Board of Education is **Bruce Putterman**, chairperson and vice-chair, **Mark Overmyer-Velazquez**.

**West Hartford Teacher of the Year:** Congratulations to **John Mastroianni**, director of Hall High School's bands, for being named the *2013-14 West Hartford Teacher of the Year*. The Teacher of the Year process is rigorous, beginning with nominations from other teachers. Nominees then submit a resume, essay and recommendations. Finalists have a lesson videotaped, and the Teacher of the Year Committee formally interviews the final three candidates. In October of 2013, John was also selected as the *State Teacher of the Year* for 2014. John Mastroianni has been the band and jazz band director at Hall since 1998. He received the prestigious CT Teacher of the Year award at a recognition ceremony at Hall High. The award was presented by state Department of Education Commissioner Stefan Pryor and Gov. Dannel Malloy along with members of the West Hartford Board of Education, Town Council and state lawmakers. In 2002, John was named one of the "50 Directors Who Make a Difference" in the United States, by School Band and Orchestra Magazine. By winning the state award, Mr. Mastroianni has now qualified for the National Teacher of the Year. He will be recognized by President Obama at a White House reception and will attend the national conference in Dallas.

**The American Legion:** Hall senior **Ethan Swain** was recently selected to represent Connecticut at the American Legion Boys State and American Legion Boys Nation Delegation. American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for US high school students. At Boys State, the training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county, and state

governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses and recreational programs. Boys State programs vary in content, but each adheres to the same basic concept: teaching government from the township to the state level. An interesting note, Dan Zittoun, Hall High School Principal, is a former Boys' State delegate.

Two representatives from each of the forty-nine Boys States represent their state at Boys Nation in Washington, where the young leaders receive an education on the function of federal government. Each delegate acts as a senator from his Boys State. They caucus at the beginning of the session then organize into committees and conduct hearings on bills submitted by program delegates. Participation in the political process is emphasized throughout the week, including nominating and electing a president and vice president. On Capitol Hill, Boys Nation senators meet with elected officials from their home states. Ethan is currently Hall's student body president and has served as a Student Association Senator since he was a freshman.

**National Blue Ribbon School:** U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has recognized Bugbee Elementary School as a **National Blue Ribbon School for 2013**. A recognition ceremony was held in Washington, D.C. in November. The National Blue Ribbon School Program recognizes public and private schools where students achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvement toward those standards. Bugbee Elementary School was nominated by Commissioner Pryor. Congratulations to **Noam Sturm**, principal, and to the teachers, staff, children and families of Bugbee.

**Unified Theater:** 10 student leaders and two adult advisors of Sedgwick’s Unified Theater Club participated in a fall student leadership *Spotlight Summit* and were recognized by Unified Theater Inc. for leadership, creativity and putting the “spotlight on ability.” Unified Theater Inc. is a non-profit organization that works with schools to help students write, develop and perform plays that include roles for students with disabilities. At Unified Theater, young people with and without disabilities, of all backgrounds, come together as equals to put on a production. The production is entirely organized, written, and directed by the students themselves. Congratulations to **Denise Brezinski**, Sedgwick paraprofessional, and Sedgwick music teacher **Melissa Lotstein**, and the following students who participated in the *Summit*: **Grace Andrews, Bella Celio, Maddie Gallinoto, Owen Hyland, Michael Quinn-Mavredakis, Lena Proietti, Tori Repka, Maggie Venora, Michael Woods, and Maggie Yezza.**

**The CT Association of Public School Superintendents:** Congratulations to Hall student **Emma Coll** and Conard student **Emma Briggs** for being selected to receive the *CAPSS Student Recognition Award*. This award is bestowed upon an individual who demonstrates leadership service to his or her school, academic prowess, and service to others in their community. Emma Coll is presently taking a Visual Arts Concepts course where she helps students with special needs to create art. She works one-on-one with different age groups of elementary school children with autism and participates in West Hartford’s Unified Theater. Emma Briggs has contributed to various communities in need both in West Hartford and at the Choate Volunteer Corps in South Dakota and a South African Exchange. Emma helped to build homes at the Cheyenne River Reservation and also helped run a summer camp for

the children. She became a member for the CT non-profit, Hawking, which brings aid to the children on the Cheyenne Reservation.

**The Bridge Family Center:** Congratulations to **David Downes**, Director of Continuing and Summer Education, for being named the recipient of the *Build No Fences Award* by the Bridge Family Center. David Downes was given the award for his creative and collaborative work with The Family Resource Center, the West Hartford public libraries, the adult education programs and other resources to help new residents of town learn English and to be welcomed members of the community.

### **The Arts**

**NAfME National Honor Ensembles:** These honor ensembles are comprised of students from all 50 states selected by competitive audition. NAfME (National Association of Music Educators) held its annual festival in Nashville this past October. Congratulations to the following students who were accepted by NAfME to participate in the festival: Band – **Max Dvorin**, clarinet; Orchestra – **Kaila Piscitelli**, cello; and Choir - **Rebecca Schwartz**.

### **CABE Awards**

The Connecticut Boards of Education has honored school districts with the Award of Excellence in Education Communications since 1975. Their goal is to identify and honor employees in school districts and communities for outstanding communication.

Congratulations to the following Award and Honorable Mention recipients:

*Award Winners:*

**In the category of Parent/Student Handbook**

WHPS REACH Student Handbook

Submitted by **Roszena Haskins** and **Jeffrey Sousa**

**In the category of Course Selection Guide**

WHPS Life Learn Adult/Summer Options for Kids 2013

Submitted by **Dave Downes, Ruth Kozlowski, Gail Turner** and **Amy LaRose**

**In the category of Special Project**

WHPS Smith Elementary School Mural

Submitted by **Juan Melian, Sharon Zajack** and **Amy LaRose**

**In the category of Computer Generated Projects**

WHPS Charter Oak's Daily Video Announcements

Submitted by **Craig Diamond**

**In the category of Websites**

WHPS Website

Submitted by **Karen List, Jared Morin, Cindi Pashley, Denise Jaffe** and **Amy LaRose**

**In the Category of Going Green**

WHPS The Paper Savers

Submitted by **Jo-Ann Lizon**

*Honorable Mention Winners:*

**In the category of Newsletters**

WHPS *Connections*

Submitted by **Karen List** and **Amy LaRose**

**In the Category of Special Project**

1. WHPS Pops n' Jazz Poster  
Submitted by **Haig Shahverdian** and **Amy LaRose**
2. WHPS One Day of Tweets  
Submitted by **Juan Melian** and **Ann Graboski**
3. WHPS ArtBeat 2013 Poster  
Submitted by **Pam Murphy** and **Amy LaRose**

**In the Category of Websites**

WHPS Sedgwick Middle School Interactive Website

Submitted by **Roszena Haskins**