

**Media Contact:**  
Dean Pagani  
pagani@mj-comm.com  
860-918-5075

**April 26, 2018**

## **The Connecticut Association of Schools Awards Barbara Dalio the 2018 Distinguished Friend of Education Award**

*Celebrating the Dalio Foundation's work to strengthen public education*

**CONNECTICUT** – The Distinguished Friend of Education Award is the highest annual honor given by the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) to an individual outside the field of education. CAS has selected Barbara Dalio as the 2018 recipient of this prestigious award in recognition of her philanthropic work to strengthen public education in Connecticut through collaboration with educators and public school leaders. “I am so happy to receive this award on behalf of my team and the educators and school communities who are my partners,” said Barbara Dalio, Co-Founder and Director of the Dalio Foundation. “I want to help public schools engage every student. This award means a lot to me because it affirms our collaborative approach and reminds us that we can accomplish great things by working together.”

“We are so proud to recognize Barbara Dalio because she is an exemplar of what we consider to be a ‘Distinguished Friend of Education,’” said CAS Executive Director Karissa Niehoff, Ed.D. “Our mission is to promote excellence in the education of all students by developing the skills and effectiveness of school leaders including administrators, staff, and students. Based on her outstanding record of service, it is clear Barbara shares our mission and values, and supports incredible work happening in public schools throughout the state.”

Dr. Albert Sackey, Principal at Nathan Hale Middle School in Norwalk, nominated Barbara for this award. “Barbara Dalio is an extraordinary benefactor and visionary,” said Dr. Sackey. “I have had the privilege of working with Barbara very closely over the past few years and have witnessed the amazing impact our collaboration has had on my school community. Barbara cares deeply and is a true friend of education. She has made it her life’s mission to champion underserved families and communities in Connecticut, and she is doing exactly that.”

Barbara leads the Dalio Foundation’s work to strengthen public education in Connecticut. She is passionate about engaging with educators, community leaders, and young people to achieve positive outcomes and greater equity across the state. The Foundation’s education portfolio reflects her holistic approach, which includes championing public school educators and communities and empowering high school-aged youth to realize their potential.

Barbara began her work nearly a decade ago by engaging directly with students and educators in Norwalk. By spending time in schools, she learned a great deal about the challenges faced by students, teachers, and administrators alike. She believes in the intrinsic abilities of young people and recognizes that solutions will come from young people themselves, as well as educators, leaders, and communities.

“I want to thank Barbara Dalio and the Dalio Foundation for supporting public education in Connecticut,” said Commissioner of Education Dianna R. Wentzell. “Countless educators and schools benefit from Barbara’s vision, generosity, and collaborative approach. I am continuously struck by Barbara’s humility and efforts to spotlight and uplift educators and school leaders, and I am thrilled to see her get the recognition she too deserves.”

###