

**Special
Olympics**
Connecticut



Unified Sports®

21st Annual

***SPECIAL OLYMPICS
UNIFIED SPORTS
AWARDS BANQUET***

APRIL 28, 2025

Aqua Turf Club
Plantsville, CT



Special Olympics
**Unified Champion
Schools®**

SPECIAL OLYMPICS CONNECTICUT & CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

As part of Special Olympics Connecticut (SOCT) outreach efforts for school-aged students, SOCT and the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) began a partnership in 1992 utilizing the Special Olympics Unified Sports® program. The school-based Unified Sports program brings together students with and without disabilities and provides them with the opportunity to train and compete in a variety of different team sports. The program is designed to foster a greater understanding, appreciation, and acceptance of students with disabilities by creating an inclusive athletic environment.

The Unified Sports program is a registered sports program that is recognized by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Association (CIAC) and the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS).

2025 SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPIRIT OF INCLUSION HONOREES

Bunnell High School, Stratford
Guilford High School
Valley Regional High School, Deep River

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Bob Hale - Director of Unified Sports®, CAS-CIAC & SOCT

GREETINGS

Michael Mason - President, Special Olympics Connecticut

Dr. Glenn Lungarini - Executive Director, CAS-CIAC

ANN MALAFRONTÉ ROOKIE SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

East Hampton Middle School

PAUL D. MENGOLD ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Matthew Memoli, Newtown High School

THE MICHAELS' CUP - MIDDLE SCHOOL

Westbrook Middle School, Westbrook

MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSAY WINNERS

Isabella Bjorne - Har-Bur Middle School, Burlington

Michael Naughton - Jockey Hollow Middle School, Monroe

MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSAY HONORABLE MENTIONS

Morgan LaMay - Albert D. Griswold Middle School, Rocky Hill

Logan Marcella - Swift Middle School, Oakville

~~~~ **DINNER** ~~~~

## **HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY WINNERS**

Brodin Warzecha – Norwich Free Academy

Corina Lowry – Guilford High School

## **HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY HONORABLE MENTIONS**

Tahjae Pike - Crosby High School, Waterbury

Thiara Tejada - Crosby High School, Waterbury

Sarah Lungi - Trumbull High School

Brianna Potok - Trumbull High School

## **THE GEORGE SYNNOTT UNIFIED SPORTS COACH AWARD**

Michael Misseri - John F. Kennedy Middle School, Enfield

Stephanie Bregman - Pomperaug High School, Southbury

## **SPECIAL APPRECIATION**

Matthew Spector - Level 1-2 Basketball Coordinator

Roger LaFrancois - IAABO Board 8 Official

## **THE MICHAELS' CUP - HIGH SCHOOL**

Lyme-Old Lyme High School

## **BEAU DOHERTY - MIKE SAVAGE TEAMMATE AWARD**

Beau Doherty, Retired President & CEO - Special Olympics Connecticut

Gregg Simon, Associate Executive Director - CAS-CIAC

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Bob Hale - Director, Special Olympics Unified Sports® CT

# **Lifetouch®**



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photos to our shared event site  
“UNIFIED SPORTS 2025”  
sponsored by Lifetouch.*



# ***BEAU DOHERTY - MIKE SAVAGE TEAMMATE AWARD***

| <b>Town</b>      | <b>Name of School</b>             | <b>Honoree</b>                | <b>Honoree</b>            |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Woodbury         | Nonnewaug High School             | Ryder Kekacs                  | Chris Engle               |
| Woodbridge       | Amity Regional High School        | Anthony Palluzzi              | Jenna Maus                |
| Wolcott          | Wolcott High School               | Brady Plourde                 | Olivia D'Alessio          |
| Wolcott          | Tyrrell Middle School             | Anderson Hernandez            | Thomas Bouley             |
| Winsted          | Northwestern Regional High School | Nick Duval                    | Jack Duval                |
| Windsor Locks    | Windsor Locks High School         | Mary Matusevich               | Trinity Bilbo             |
| Windsor          | Windsor High School               | Lily Gagne                    | Xavier Montilla           |
| Wilton           | Wilton High School                | Chris Kahn                    | Alex Kuchenmeister        |
| Weston           | Weston High School                | Alice Gross                   | Sean Meenan               |
| Westbrook        | Westbrook High School             | David Otwoma                  | Tanyon Champagne          |
| Westbrook        | Westbrook Middle School           | Nicholas Martin               | Emeline Ehrlich           |
| West Hartford    | Conard High School                | Landon Mastroianni            | Madeline Santangelo       |
| West Hartford    | Hall High School                  | Loryann Pisani                | Zachary Debin             |
| West Hartford    | Sedgwick Middle School            | Jadiely Morales               | Will Caines               |
| Watertown        | Watertown High School             | Morgan Kish                   | Makenzie Kish             |
| Watertown        | Swift Middle School               | Logan Marcella                | Haider Imam               |
| Waterbury        | John F. Kennedy High School       | Christopher Whittingham       | Genesis Montoya-Caballero |
| Waterbury        | Crosby High School                | Abner Melendez                | Thiara Tejada             |
| Waterbury        | North End Middle School           | Andrew White                  | Adairis Geneao            |
| Waterbury        | Wilby High School                 | Edwin-Mario Castaneda-Recinos | Maryluz Ramos-Hernandez   |
| Wallingford      | Lyman Hall High Schol             | Rebecca Yoder                 | Grace D'Amico             |
| Vernon           | Rockville High School             | Cole O'Neill                  | Peter Glidden             |
| Trumbull         | Trumbull High School              | Daisy Latifi                  | John (Jack) Shannon       |
| Torrington       | Torrington Middle School          | Lucas Rushlow                 | Emma Gurtowsky            |
| Torrington       | Torrington High School            | Shadow Samela                 | Sophia Pergola            |
| Stratford        | Stratford High School             | Carter Ormsbee                | Max Esteva                |
| Stratford        | Bunnell High School               | Diallo Cowan                  | Jordan Colacurcio         |
| Storrs           | E.O. Smith High School            | Gaspar Nazario                | Elsa Nocton               |
| Stafford Springs | Stafford High School              | Connor Conceicao              | Zachary Messemer          |
| Stafford Springs | Stafford Middle School            | Joshua Fogg                   | Danika Connors            |
| Southbury        | Pomperaug High School             | Abigail Lutz                  | Samantha Evans            |
| Southbury        | Rochambeau Middle School          | Patrick Swan                  | Ryan Ciccone              |



# ***BEAU DOHERTY - MIKE SAVAGE TEAMMATE AWARD***

| <b>Town</b>    | <b>Name of School</b>             | <b>Honoree</b>       | <b>Honoree</b>        |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Southington    | Southington High School           | Emma Simpson-Mayette | Sean Buck             |
| Simsbury       | Simsbury High School              | Jacob Polsgrove      | Giulia Danielsen      |
| Shelton High   | Shelton High School               | Ethan Nerkowski      | Juliana Grich         |
| Rocky Hill     | Albert D. Griswold Middle School  | Iylis Clark          | Morgan LaMay          |
| Rocky Hill     | Rocky Hill High School            | Shania Lobo          | Adriana Buccheri      |
| Putnam         | Putnam High School                | Natalie Braga        | Grant Hart            |
| Plainville     | Plainville High School            | Jacob LeGeyt         | Hailey Andersen       |
| Oxford         | Oxford High School                | Gabriel Hernandez    | Brandon Rose          |
| Old Lyme       | Lyme Old Lyme High School         | Andrea DeBernardo    | Tabitha Colwell       |
| Oakville       | Swift Middle School               | Carter Collin        | Charlotte Charpentier |
| Oakdale        | Montville High School             | Mason Lostrappo      | Aidan Johnson         |
| Norwich        | Norwich Free Academy              | Brodin Warzecha      | Gavin Duda            |
| Norwich        | Kelly Steam Magnet Middle School  | Andrew Camp          | Giovanni Coriano      |
| Norwalk        | Norwalk High School               | Tiffany Lopes        | Madison Havens        |
| North Haven    | North Haven High School           | Richard Ngo          | Jacob Morris          |
| North Haven    | North Haven Middle School         | Kaylee Chiaraluce    | Michael Kozlowski     |
| North Branford | North Branford High School        | Leah Brustman        | Addison Penna         |
| Newtown        | Newtown High School               | Tim Sullivan         | Addie Plummer         |
| Newtown        | Newtown Middle School             | Austin Keayes        | Cecilia Wasley        |
| Newington      | Newington High School             | Riley Sorrentino     | Josie Piel            |
| New Fairfield  | New Fairfield High School         | Kaitlin Doscher      | Kelly Flanagan        |
| New Britain    | New Britain High School           | Jomar Osorio-Laborde | Tyrisha Gunn          |
| Moodus         | Nathan Hale Ray Middle School     | Jonathan Hall        | Joseph Dellaposta     |
| Moodus         | Nathan Hale-Ray High School       | Omar Lopez-Crespo    | Jayden Reyes-Gonzalez |
| Monroe         | Jockey Hollow Middle School       | Koi Maitland         | Michael Naughton      |
| Monroe         | Masuk High School                 | Brooke Tartaglia     | Maya Fisher           |
| Middletown     | Middletown High School            | Jazmyn Jackson       | Alyssa Hendrix        |
| Middlebury     | Memorial Middle School            | Armend Komoni        | Lilyana Reed          |
| Meriden        | Maloney High School               | Gabriella Ortiz      | Allen Nerbonne        |
| Meriden        | Orville H. Platt High School      | Jacie Carrero        | Jordan Silva          |
| Killingworth   | Haddam Killingworth Middle School | Gage Gillund         | George Hebert         |



# ***BEAU DOHERTY - MIKE SAVAGE TEAMMATE AWARD***

| <b>Town</b>  | <b>Name of School</b>           | <b>Honoree</b>            | <b>Honoree</b>              |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Guilford     | Guilford High School            | Delia Rose VanSteenbergen | Harper L. Brooks            |
| Guilford     | Baldwin Middle School           | Brandon Levesque          | Daniella Pacello            |
| Guilford     | Adams Middle School             | Julien M. DeLancy         | Nicholas Vigliotti          |
| Gales Ferry  | Ledyard Middle School           | Christine Chen            | Tessa Dalton                |
| Farmington   | Farmington High School          | Kayden Mullaney           | Kenan Reichow               |
| Fairfield    | Tomlinson Middle School         | Robert Andrew Schanne     | Kathleen Arelenne Balcarcel |
| Enfield      | Enfield High School             | Riley Holleran            | Scarlet Kesileswski         |
| Enfield      | John F. Kennedy Middle School   | Aubrie Howell             | Ayden Tanona                |
| East Hampton | East Hampton Middle School      | Zackary Lavender          | Alyssa Arnold               |
| East Granby  | East Granby High School         | Jordyn Holness            | Katelin Wolf                |
| Durham       | Coginchaug High School          | Joey Calamita             | Yusha Hossain               |
| Durham       | Frank Ward Strong Middle School | Charlotte Charpentier     | Carter Collin               |
| Derby        | Derby Middle School             | Austin Strackman          | Makaila Briscoe             |
| Derby        | Derby High School               | Antonio Ortiz             | Emma Hyder                  |
| Deep River   | Valley Regional High School     | Addie Guzallis            | Daeveon Harrell             |
| Dayville     | Killingly High School           | Gianna Henson             | Phillip Purcell             |
| Danbury      | Broadview Middle School         | Angel Yadiel Perez        | Annabelle Rose Catalano     |
| Cromwell     | Cromwell High School            | Isabella Gruszczak        | Maham Rafiq                 |
| Colchester   | Bacon Academy                   | Jordan Donnelly           | Julia Cavaliere             |
| Canton       | Canton High School              | Mackenzie Robinson        | Daniel Cho                  |
| Burlington   | Har-Bur Middle School           | Isabella Bjorne           | Anthony Baldino             |
| Brookfield   | Brookfield High School          | Jenna Mix                 | Caroline Walters            |
| Brookfield   | Whisconier Middle School        | Laila Pacheco             | Addison Place               |
| Bristol      | Bristol Central High School     | Elijah Zabawa             | Fiona Rabtoy                |
| Bristol      | Bristol Eastern High School     | Luke Chiarello            | Mya Michaud                 |
| Bridgeport   | Park City Middle School         | Anthony Soley             | Justin Torres               |
| Brandford    | Branford High School            | Ayden Benbow              | David Moon                  |
| Bloomfield   | Bloomfield High School          | Matthew Roberts           | Sage Johnson                |
| Bethel       | Bethel High School              | Jacob Mele                | Emma Yale                   |
| Berlin       | Berlin High School              | Gabriel Matta             | Macie Krawciw               |
| Beacon Falls | Woodland Regional High School   | Logan Marsan              | Edward Acevedo              |

# ***SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED SPORTS STAFF***

## **MICHAEL MASON**

President, Special Olympics Connecticut

## **DR. GLENN LUNGARINI**

Executive Director, CAS-CIAC

## **BOB HALE**

Director, Unified Sports

## **GREGG SIMON**

Associate Executive Director, CIAC

## **JOHN NISKI**

Associate Director, Unified Sports

## **KATHY DAVEY**

Assistant Director, Unified Sports

## **STEVE TRIFONE**

Assistant Director, Unified Sports

## **KAROL BRZOWSKI**

Program Manager, Unified Sports

## **BARBARA HORN**

Unified Champion Schools Coordinator  
Young Athletes & Elementary Programs

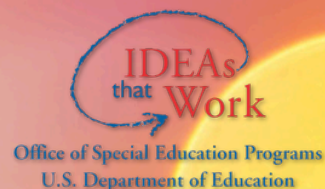
## **TROY SUNDWALL**

SOCT Manager of Sports & Local Programs  
CIAC Liaison





Special Olympics  
**Unified Champion  
Schools®**



Office of Special Education Programs  
U.S. Department of Education

# ***CONNECTICUT NATIONAL BANNER UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS***

## ***CLASS OF 2023-2024***

Albert D. Griswold Middle School, Rocky Hill

Amity Regional High School, Woodbridge

Avon High School

Brookfield High School

Center School, East Hampton

Cheshire High School

Coginchaug High School, Durham

Conard High School, West Hartford

Edwin O. Smith High School, Storrs

Highland Elementary School, Cheshire

Jockey Hollow Middle School, Monroe

Ledyard Middle School, Ledyard

Masuk High School, Monroe

Memorial Elementary School, East Hampton

Nathan-Hale-Ray High School, Moodus

Norwich Free Academy, Norwich

Plainville High School

R.M.T. Johnson School, Bethel

Shelton High School

Smith Middle School, Glastonbury

Stamford High School

Wolcott High School

The Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® program is aimed at promoting social inclusion through a three component model with inclusive sports as the foundation, combined with inclusive youth leadership opportunities, and whole school engagement. Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® builds on Special Olympics' values, principles, practices, experiences and impacts to shape a generation that welcomes everyone.

In 2016, a National School Recognition Program was introduced to recognize schools that have incorporated all three components of the UCS model and meet a set of ten standards of excellence. Currently there are 72 National Banner Unified Champion Schools within the state of Connecticut.

# ***THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF UNIFIED SPORTS OVER THE YEARS.***

## ***5 YEARS***

Anna Malkin, Newtown Middle School  
Cindy Culp, Middletown High School  
Gabby Brzozowski, Rocky Hill High School  
Lydia Murphy, Cromwell High School  
Sandra Darrah, Maloney High School  
Kim Perschmann, Northwestern Regional High School, Winsted  
Lisa Carmody, Southington High School  
Maryann Agostin, Trumbull High School

## ***10 YEARS***

Robert Bajoros, Coginchaug High School, Durham  
Mark Ferrandino, Bethel High School  
Kara Lesandrine, Westbrook High School  
Elizabeth Rodriguez, Tomlinson Middle School, Fairfield

## ***20 YEARS***

Colin Bowie, West Hartford Middle School  
Denice Brezinski, West Hartford Middle School  
Barb Poisson, Bunnell High School





# #INCLUSIONRESOLUTION



# WHAT WILL YOU DO?

# ***PRESENTING SPONSORS***



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