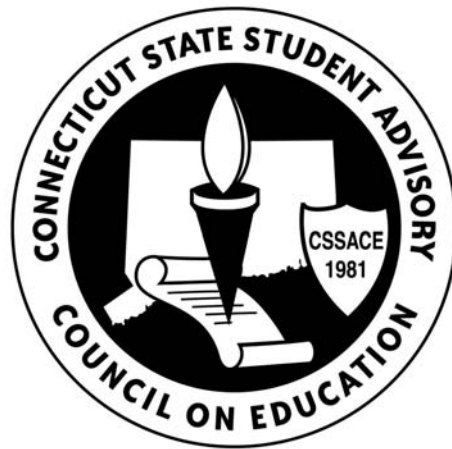


Twentieth Annual  
Challenge to Educational Citizenship Awards  
Connecticut State Student Advisory Council  
on Education



Connecticut Association of Schools  
2015



## **BETHANY – Bethany Community School**

Superintendent	Mr. John Barile
Principal	Mr. Robert Davis
Faculty	Linda Saffran

### **Veterans Day Celebration**

For the past four years, the Bethany Community Elementary School (BCS) has partnered with the Bethany Beletzky-Hoppe VFW Post 2448 to honor and celebrate Veterans Day together. Veterans Day is a very important occasion at BCS. Each year in preparation of Veterans Day they create a “Wall of Honor” display in the main lobby of the school. They ask students and staff to send in photos of family veterans. They display the name of the veteran, the relationship to the student and any information regarding the veteran, military branch and dates of service.

Then on November 11<sup>th</sup>, they invite community representatives from various military branches of the armed services to join the students and staff at an assembly honoring all of them for protecting our freedom over the decades. At the assemblies, they proudly recognize these citizens who have made the personal sacrifices to defend the United States and bring freedom to all people. The veterans also have an opportunity to speak personally with the students in one or more of their classrooms; BCS also provides a special breakfast for each veteran who attends, in gratitude for their military service. Following these activities, the students and staff then assist the veterans in a town-wide Veterans Day ceremony each year at the Town Hall. As a community outreach program, the students handwrite thank you letters to a Bethany veteran. These letters are sent out to registered veterans thanking them for the sacrifices they have made to keep this country free. Many veterans in return; respond by sending letters and mementos. Several students have had the opportunity to meet the veterans in which they wrote during the Veterans Day Celebration.

## **BURLINGTON – Har-Bur Middle School**

Superintendent	Alan Beitman
Principal	Kenneth M. Smith
Faculty	Amanda Ferrucci
Student	Meghan Sullivan

## **Oaxaca Street Children Supplies Drive**

A drive was held to collect school supplies for underprivileged children in Oaxaca, Mexico. The mission is to improve the lives of the street children by giving them access to education and basic life necessities. They collected colored pencils, pens, toothbrushes, and pencil cases. The drive ran from January 5<sup>th</sup> to February 5<sup>th</sup> and they ended with about three boxes of supplies. Local Girl Scout troops donated over forty more items. They also visited an oral hygienist who donated thirty toothbrushes and travel toothpaste. They are writing a pamphlet in both Spanish and English about proper oral hygiene that they will send to the Oaxacan schools so they can learn the importance of keeping their teeth clean.

## **MANCHESTER – Manchester High School**

Superintendent	Matt Geary
Principal	Jill Krieger
Faculty	Teri Norman
Students	Kailey Feshler

### **Pay It Forward Movie Night for MACC Food Pantry**

The mission of the “Pay It Forward” movie night project is to bring awareness to childhood and family hunger worldwide. They also want to encourage people to “pay it forward” in way such as helping others. Both students and staff were welcome to attend the movie night, which was held on April 2, 2015 after school from 2:15-6:00 in Manchester High School’s Bailey Auditorium. They collected canned goods for the MACC Food Pantry as admission to the event. The Ambassador Club began in the 2013-14 school year. 12 student ambassadors are involved in the committee for this project and there are 50 students in our Ambassador Club. The club is open to any MHS student who wants to make a positive impact on the school and community

## **NAUGATUCK – Naugatuck High School**

Superintendent	Sharon Locke
Principal	Janice Saam
Faculty	Timothy Reilly
Students	Mikayla Healy and Christopher Yacavone

### **Cruz Night**

The mission of Cruz Night was to create a student-driven 12 hour overnight walkathon/sports spectacular on June 13<sup>th</sup> – June 14<sup>th</sup> 2014 to help heal the pain of Naugatuck High school teacher Rebecca Cruz who was diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer in February 2014. Additionally, the goal was to raise \$40,000 in six weeks through walker sponsors and corporate donations. With involvement of the entire DECA body, and hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and community members, \$39,000 was raised to benefit Mrs. Cruz and the family of paraprofessional Donna Dietz who lost her battle with cancer 2 days after the event. Mrs. Cruz continues to teach, and bravely wages her battle with modern medical treatment and the love and support of her students. Naugatuck High School DECA continues to shine as a teen-based community leader for those in need.

## **STAMFORD – Cloonan Middle School**

Superintendent	Winnie Hamilton
Principal	David Tate
Faculty	Laureen Mody, Emily Kosh
Student	Nicholas Portanova

### **Stamford Education 4 Autism: “SE4A” Buddies**

In the fall of 2012, the SE4A Buddies was formed by a group of Cloonan Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with a mission developed by all club members:

*The mission of the SE4A Buddies is to help all children on the Autism Spectrum develop stronger social skills and to spread the acceptance and awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder to our peers attending Stamford Public Schools.*

The group is currently comprised of 12 students on the autism spectrum and 20 now 8<sup>th</sup> graders. They meet weekly to discuss current events, outings and ways to meet their mission. While the students on the autism spectrum are learning social skills, the neurotypical students are learning patience, kindness, acceptance of differences and way of communicating.

Together the group participated in a Cardboard Challenge, Valentines for the Vets, spoke publically at autism acceptance events and benefits concerts, sold autism awareness items and have had many parties and field trips. Their hope is to have SE4A Buddies in every Stamford School.

## **TRUMBULL – Madison Middle School**

Superintendent	Gary Cialfi
Principal	Valerie Forshaw
Faculty	Jeanne Malgioglio
Student	Emma Lecierc, Ana Carios, Katie McLaughlin

### **Bot Buddies**

Madison Middle School's KARE (Kids and Adults Reaching Out to Each Other) created a special gift of Bot Buddies for children at the Yale New Haven Children's Hospital. Bot Buddies have a special power, they let a little light into the kids life. Bot Buddies are dominoes that are transformed into mini-superheroes. Each have a special symbol drawn on it that either represents joy, friendship, bravery, hope, or care. The kids will hold the Bot Buddies during surgery to try to take some pressure off their shoulders. With 25 students participating at school and at home we created over 200 Bot Buddies. Along with the Bot Buddy came a special note describing the special power of the Bot. Madison Middle School was among one of the first people to create Bots. Portland, Oregon artist Gary Hirsch originally designed the Bots, and Yale requested that KARE makes them. A simple act of kindness can go a long way and make the world go around.

## **WEST HARTFORD – King Philip Middle School**

Superintendent Tom Moore

Principal Joy Wright

Faculty Stacy Genova

Students Jack Brown

### **Water Challenge**

The purpose of the project is to help provide clean drinking water to people living in remote villages of South Sudan. The team of 111 students have launched an online fundraising campaign, as well as a water bottle collection campaign at school. They have written and sent emails to their friends and family asking for their monetary support and collected water bottles from the school cafeterias on a daily basis. They have currently raised more than \$2500 for Water for South Sudan which will use the funds to dig a well. A single well may serve several thousand people.



## 2015 SSACE Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award Semi Finalists

School	Town	Project
Ansonia High School	Ansonia	Community Service Challenge
Bolton High School	Bolton	Trick or Treat for Canned Goods
The Bridge Academy	Bridgeport	Holy Rosary Church Thanksgiving Food Dinner
Har-Bur Middle School	Burlington	Walk for Parkinson's
East Granby Middle School	East Granby	Top Turkey
John F Kennedy Middle School	Enfield	The Enfield Food Shelf
John F Kennedy Middle School	Enfield	Wounded Warrior
John F Kennedy Middle School	Enfield	A Voice For Those Who Have None: Advocating For Animals
Public Safety Academy	Enfield	High School Community Service Group
Enfield School District	Enfield	Rachel's Challenge
Guilford High School	Guilford	Unity Week
Walter C Polson Middle School	Madison	Spread The Word To End The Word
Walter C Polson Middle School	Madison	PAC (Polson Awareness of Cancer)
O. H. Platt High School	Meriden	Kids Mentor Kids Mentoring Kids

## 2015 SSACE Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award Semi Finalists

New Fairfield High School	New Fairfield	Senior Citizen Prom
Newtown Middle School	Newtown	Happiness in the Hallways
Amity Regional School District #5	Orange	Amity "Summer Sidekicks"
Plainfield Central Middle School	Plainfield	Project P.I.N. (People In Need)
Simsbury High School	Simsbury	Holiday Cabaret
Mabelle B Avery Middle School	Somers	Scarecrow Showdown
Mabelle B Avery Middle School	Somers	St Patrick's Day Senior Center Dinner
Mabelle B Avery Middle School	Somers	Stand Up to Bullying & Unity Day
Mabelle B Avery Middle School	Somers	Food and Tolietry Drive to Benefit Champ's Place
Mabelle B Avery Middle School	Somers	Fleece Blanket
Mabelle B Avery Middle School	Somers	Scantic River Clean-Up
Pomperaug High School	Southbury	Sydney Malaspina
Scofield Magnet Middle School	Stamford	Stand for the Silent
Cloonan Middle School	Stamford	The Kiva Club at Cloonan
Rogers International School	Stamford	Unity
Rogers International School	Stamford	Guiding Eyes

## 2015 SSACE Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award Semi Finalists

Rogers International School	Stamford	Smiles
Thomaston High School	Thomaston	Peer Mentoring
Trumbull High School	Trumbull	Pay It Forward
Madison Middle School	Trumbull	Blankets for Hospitals
Madison Middle School	Trumbull	Banners for Senior Citizens
Madison Middle School	Trumbull	The Talent Show
Madison Middle School	Trumbull	Cards for Veterans
King Philip Middle School	West Hartford	Picture Books for Patients
King Philip Middle School	West Hartford	KP Universal Food Drive 2015
King Philip Middle School	West Hartford	KP Universal Race for the Cure
Westbrook Middle School	Westbrook	Empty Bowls Project
Staples High School	Westport	Service League of Boys (S.L.O.B.S.)
Windham Middle School	Windham	Pantry Heroes
Northwestern Regional High School	Winsted	Student Council's Annual Turkey Basket Drive