



**Fourteenth Annual  
Celebrating Leadership in Education  
Awards Ceremony**

Honoring the:

- New Hampshire Blue Ribbon Schools
- New Hampshire Recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching
  - New Hampshire Teacher of the Year  
Semi-Finalists, Finalists  
and the  
2016 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

December 17, 2015

*Every day a New Hampshire teacher makes a difference in the life of a child. Every year the NH Department of Education honors outstanding educators who make their communities, profession, and the world a better place.*



Commissioner of Education, Virginia Barry welcomed the group and read a letter from Governor Hassan



MARGARET WOOD HASSAN  
Governor

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

December 17, 2015

Dear Friends,

I regret that I cannot be with you today, but I would like to join you in congratulating the 14th Annual Leadership in Education Award winners and thanking this year's nominees and winners for everything they do to prepare our youngest Granite Staters for success.

Providing our young citizens with a positive educational experience is essential to the future growth of New Hampshire. For 14 years, the New Hampshire Department of Education, in partnership with Hannaford Supermarkets, has collaborated with education leaders from throughout the state to recognize and honor schools, administrators, school board members and educators who meet these high standards of educational excellence. Such standards of excellence are critical to helping New Hampshire's children develop the foundation for their future success.

Helping our young people develop the skills and innovative thinking needed for jobs in the 21st century economy is essential to our state's future, and I commend the schools, administrators and teachers honored here tonight for their commitment to helping our children learn, grow and lead. My mom always said that what children need more than anything else is an adult in their corner, and all of you have proven to be there for our young people.

Once again, congratulations to tonight's nominees and winners. Your tireless commitment to our young people reaffirms our belief that when we care for each other, we all get stronger. I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that all children in the Granite State are prepared to thrive and lead the way in the innovation economy of the 21st century.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maggie Hassan".

Margaret Wood Hassan  
Governor



Liz Lichtenberg is a Gifted and Talented Enrichment Coordinator and Teacher at the Alton Central School. Along with her teaching duties, she represented New Hampshire as our 2015 Teacher of the Year. She spoke about the profession of learning, her experiences from this last year and how it all connects to the efforts we wage to affect education in this state.

Representatives from Senators  
Shaheen and Ayottes' offices and  
Congresswoman Ann Kuster's office read letters.

# **Blue Ribbon Schools**

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either high performing or have improved student achievement to high levels, especially among disadvantaged students.



State Board Members Cindy Chagnon and Bill Duncan presented the Blue Ribbon School Awards



Canaan Elementary School



Gilmanton School

## ***Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)***

The Presidential Awards program, funded by the National Science Foundation, identifies outstanding teachers who serve as role models for their colleagues. The 2015 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching recognizes 7th through 12th grade teachers who have at least five years of teaching experience in mathematics or science and is a full-time employee of his or her school district.



Donna Dubey and Eric Feldborg of the NH Department of Education presented the PAEMST Awards



PAEMST NH Recipients – Robin Ellwood, Rye Junior High and Patrick Kaplo, Windham High School



SMART Technologies of Canada sponsors State Teacher of the Year programs through the donation of interactive education technologies and professional development opportunities.  
Randy Welch spoke on behalf of SMART



## **NH Teacher of the Year**

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. Jean-Marie Beauchemin of Hannafords presented these awards.

(pictured left to right: Laura LaVallee, Elizabeth Louder, Ashley Preston, Alan Magnusson, Jennifer Thompson, Bridgette Doucette-Howell, and Jean-Marie)



## Semi-Finalists

Bridgette Doucette-Howell, RSEC Academy, Amherst, Social Studies  
Alan Magnusson, Hampton Academy, Science



Finalist

Laura LaVallee, Portsmouth High School, English



Finalist

Elizabeth Lounder, Winchester School, English



Finalist

Jennifer Thompson, Unity Elementary School, Language  
Arts & Social Studies



2016 NH Teacher of the Year  
Ashley Preston, Parker Varney Elementary School,  
Manchester, Preschool

Not pictured

Sarah Rosenbleeth, Newfields Elementary  
School, Fourth Grade – Semi-Finalist

Christopher Schoff, Portsmouth High  
School, Mathematics - Finalist



*The New Hampshire Department of  
Education*

*wishes to thank Hannaford  
Supermarkets for their continued  
support of the New Hampshire Teacher  
of the Year Program*

*SMART Technologies for their generous  
donation of classroom technology  
products and services.*

**And the Emcee for the evening  
Madeline Mullen a Senior at  
Portsmouth High School**

