



# For the First Time, DOC Teacher Awarded NH Teacher of the Year!

CONCORD, NH- On Wednesday, Oct. 10, Commissioner of Education Frank Edelblut announced that Kimberly Piper-Stoddard, an English Teacher at Granite State High School in the Corrections Special School District, is New Hampshire’s 2020 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Piper Stoddard was surprised by the announcement during a ceremony held at the New Hampshire State Prison for Men (NHSP-M).

“There are many paths to bright futures. Ms. Piper-Stoddard teaches students who have gone down the wrong path, but are working to turn their lives around,” said Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut. “I congratulate her, and hope this well-earned award will draw attention to the great work being done at Granite State High School.”

In the words of one of her students, “Ms. Piper is excited and enthusiastic about what she teaches and it has created an overwhelming positive change in me.”

Ms. Piper-Stoddard is devoted to helping students see the connections between themselves and others through literature and finding their voice through writing. In her application for Teacher of the Year, she wrote:

“Throughout my career, I have resolved to be an example to those in my care. On my best days I model for them curiosity, active listening, problem solving, empathy, and enthusiasm for learning; Even on the not-so-good days, I can still model admitting, apologizing for and fixing my mistakes. These are skills that will transcend



*(l-r) Corrections Commissioner Helen Hanks, Corrections Education Director Laura Hardwick, 2020 Teacher of the Year Kimberly Piper-Stoddard, and Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut.*

the classroom, and hopefully propel my students into a new and better life when they are released from custody.”

Ms. Piper-Stoddard holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Teaching with a Master of Education degree in Elementary Education, both from the University of New Hampshire. She has been in the education field for 25 years as a pre-school teacher, elementary school teacher, middle

school teacher and her current position as a high school English teacher at Granite State High School. Granite State High School is located within the walls of the NHSP-M, the New Hampshire Correctional Facility for Women in Concord (NHCFW), as well as the Northern New Hampshire Correctional Facility (NNHCF) in Berlin. Granite State High School pro-

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vides a second chance for those in need of formal education and can be a critical component of self-reflection and rehabilitation. Education through Granite State High School helps residents gain access to employment that might not have otherwise been available and can provide a foundational launching pad for further advanced education.

This high school was established in law in 1998. Through an interagency agreement between the NH Department of Corrections and the New Hampshire Department of Education, they outline educational services within the context of an adult correctional facility. The Corrections Special School District consists of Granite State High School and the Career and Technical Education Center. Students have the ability to earn their high school diploma and/or obtain licenses and accreditations while incarcerated. Granite State High School is a critical resource as evidenced by recommendations from a RAND Corporation Study from 2014 citing that education and vocational programs improve reentry outcomes of incarcerated adults.

In receiving this award, Ms. Piper-

Stoddard becomes New Hampshire's candidate for National Teacher of the Year and will be representing New Hampshire at several National Teacher of the Year events throughout the year.

Each year, New Hampshire schools take part in the State and National Teacher of the Year Program. The National Teacher of the Year program, run by the Council of Chief State School

Officers and presented by Voya Financial, identifies exceptional teachers in the country, recognizes their effective work in the classroom, amplifies their voices, and empowers them to participate in policy discussions at the state and national levels. In New Hampshire, Geskus Studios and Yearbook Publishing is proud to partner with the NH DOE to help sponsor the New Hampshire Teacher of the Year program.

New Hampshire Teacher of the Year Finalists are: Jeremy Brown, Littleton High

School; Sarah Grossi, Con-Val Regional High School; John "Drew" Groves, Bow High School; Barbara Milliken, Oyster River High School; and Christine Stilwell, Robert J. Lister Academy.

In early December, these semi-finalists, finalists, and the 2020 NH Teacher of the

Year will be invited to a "Leadership in Education Banquet" to celebrate their accomplishments along with other distinguished educators in the State. For more information about this and other award/

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recognition programs coordinated through the Department of Education log on to [www.education.nh.gov/recognition](http://www.education.nh.gov/recognition) or contact Lori Kincaid, NH Teacher of the Year Coordinator at 603-271-6646 or e-mail [Lori.Kincaid@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Lori.Kincaid@doe.nh.gov).

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## Banner Day



To mark "I Am College Bound Month" in November, we're going to take a group picture.

We have a banner laid out in the cafeteria of Londergan Hall. We want to showcase the many different educational paths that DOE staff have taken to get here, and how valuable education has been to our careers in order to encourage high school students to consider higher education options.

Join the effort and please go sign the banner with your college or grad school and your graduating class.

We're not looking for names, just school and class, such as UNH '95 or St. A's '07.

Thanks for being part of "I Am College Bound" Month!

# Using Tech Effectively in New Hampshire Schools

By Commissioner Frank Edelblut

TO SCREEN or not to screen? That is the question facing parents and educators across the country.

Digital technology has opened up new possibilities in teaching, as well as so many other areas of modern life. But new research finds that too much screen time can hinder a child's educational development. The key is to find ways to use technology effectively as one part of an overhaul teaching strategy. The challenge is that some techniques may be effective for some students, but ineffective for others.

Recent surveys find that 91 percent of teachers say effective use of technology enables students to be more active and engaged in their learning. Over 92 percent of those teachers agree that technology offers opportunities for students that they might not otherwise have. Teachers note that using technology effectively increases student confidence, allowing them to participate actively in class. Students are more motivated when lessons involve the specific use of technology for specific purposes. Integrating tech into the lesson plan or an accommodation in a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) increases student motivation.

For the past several decades, state and federal policy has pushed for more computers in the classroom, providing grants and incentives for new equipment. But are we getting the most of all that hardware and software?

The most important factor in determining whether screen time is helpful or harmful is the context of the use of the screens. Passive screen time is the use of screens for

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watching videos or television, browsing social media and internet sites, and playing certain games. Conversely, active or creative screen time involves being interactive with screens and devices in order to learn a skill, make music, edit images and photography, or create videos and animations. Using productivity software and applications to code, game, develop, write, or draw requires active thought in interactions with the screen beyond passive observations. There should be balance between control, monitoring, and guidance when using technology effectively, so that learning and achievement are supported in our students.

Deploying digital technology effectively in the classroom requires constant professional development. Teachers have to keep learning themselves in order to meet student needs and employ emerging tools and techniques. Professional development is a priority for the Department of Education, and an area where we work extensively with local schools.

One of the strategies we've adopted in New Hampshire to help teachers serve the varying needs of their students is Universal Design for Learning, or UDL. This asks teachers to design lessons for a variety of learning styles in order to engage as many learners as possible. Many of the lessons that are universally designed will use strategies that include digital tools and resources in ways that meet students where

they are. New Hampshire's UDL program is now in its third year, and teachers who've been through the training sessions overwhelmingly say that it has improved their ability to reach their students.

On Tuesday, October 15, Apple is holding a pair of workshops at the Portsmouth Harbor Events and Conference Center designed to help teachers make better use of technology. Apple and other tech companies are also hosting preconference workshops as part of the Christa McAuliffe Transforming Teacher Technology Conference in Manchester in December. These events will give teachers hands-on training in how to effectively engage their students with these digital tools. I want to encourage New Hampshire educators to take advantage of these and other opportunities to improve their skills in using technology in the classroom.

Digital technology is always just one piece of the overall education system. School needs to be more than students staring at screens. We want kids running around on playgrounds. We want them learning in the community. We want them learning through interactions with their classmates.

Let's learn to take advantage of the potential that digital learning offers, and make sure our students' limited screen time is worthwhile.

*Frank Edelblut is Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Education.*

## Holiday Cards 4 Our Military Challenge

It's not yet Halloween, but the stores have already put Christmas trees on sale, and we're getting ready for the holiday season. At the DOE, that means sending holiday cards for our brave men and women stationed away from their families.

Last year, Edelblut enlisted the New Hampshire Department of Education to help Dr. Laura Landerman send holiday cards to American military personnel serving abroad. Landerman sent out close to 50,000 cards last year.

This year, Edelblut reached out to his counterparts in other states, asking them to join the cause. So far, education officials in 13 other states have responded.

"The response we've received from education departments across the country has been fantastic," Edelblut said. "From Florida to Alaska, thousands of students across the United States will be sending cards to our dedicated servicemen and women who can't be with their families over the holidays."



Fill out a card in the lobby of the Londergan Building or for more information, visit [militaryholidaycardchallenge.com/](http://militaryholidaycardchallenge.com/)

# Saluting STEM

## Four NH teachers win national award

CONCORD- New Hampshire Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut today congratulated a quartet for New Hampshire teachers who were recognized with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

Winners announced by President Donald J. Trump this week are for 2017 and 2018, and include:

Elise Catalano received the award for her work at Rye Junior High but now teaches 7th Grade Math at Cooperative Middle School in Exeter.

Angela Lennox recently retired from Exeter High School. This is her second time receiving the PAEMST. She first won in 2013.

Bryan Smith teaches 4th Grade at Bethlehem Elementary School.

Gregory Snoke teaches 6th Grade at Captain Samuel Douglass Academy in Brookline.

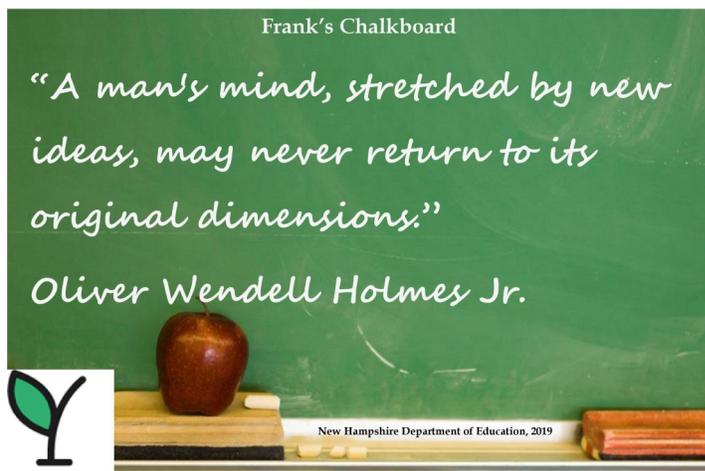
"We know that great teachers make it much easier for students to find a path to a bright future," Edelblut said. "I want to congratulate these outstanding teachers for all they do for students."

Established by Congress in 1983, The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th grade science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Awardees will be honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. and receive a \$10,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Nominations and awards are facilitated by the White House

Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the National Science Foundation. The individuals and organizations announced today are 2017 and 2018 Awardees. A panel of distinguished mathematicians, scientists, and educators at the State and national levels assess the applications before recommending nominees to OSTP. Teachers are selected based on their distinction in the classroom and dedication to improving science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education.

For more information, visit [www.paemst.org](http://www.paemst.org).



## gotsneakers?

A Sneaker Recycling Organization

We're happy to join the New Hampshire Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NHAHPERD) as it collects wearable sneakers for people in impoverished nations.

If you have a pair of sneakers that are still in good shape, but you don't wear anymore, you can donate them to someone who could really use them. The NHAHPERD Conference begins on Nov. 20, and they're hoping to collect 500 pairs of sneakers by then.

For more information, email [Drappa@roadrunner.com](mailto:Drappa@roadrunner.com).

## Conversations with the Commissioner

**Thursday, October 31 ~ 1:30-2:30 PM**  
*following the Halloween costume party*

**Tuesday, November 19 ~ 9:00-10:00 AM**

**Tuesday, December 10 ~ 1:00-2:00 PM**  
*during the latter part of the Holiday party*

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

If you would like to suggest an item for the next issue, please email Grant Bosse at [grant.bosse@doe.nh.gov](mailto:grant.bosse@doe.nh.gov).



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