

# NEWS

Connecticut Department of Education



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Commissioner

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## Magnet school educator named Connecticut's Teacher of the Year

Joan Hurley, an elementary school teacher at the University of Hartford Magnet School, whose teaching focuses on multiple intelligences, has been named Connecticut's 2008 "Teacher of the Year."

A former Hartford teacher at Parkville and Kinsella elementary schools (1990 – 2001), Hurley has worked for the past six years with Grade 3 students at the UHART magnet. She was selected from among Connecticut's 50,000 public school teachers, and will represent them in various forums and advisory groups during the next year.

State Deputy Education Commissioner George A. Coleman visited the school to make the announcement. "Joan Hurley represents the best characteristics of educators today; caring and creative, highly competent and committed. We are pleased to showcase her contributions to the classroom," said Coleman in making the announcement.

Governor M. Jodi Rell offered her congratulations. "Teaching is a calling. It is challenging work to meet the needs of children every day and we cannot emphasize enough the impact our teachers have on our state's future. My best wishes go to Ms. Hurley as Connecticut's 2008 Teacher of the Year and to all teachers who, each day, make a difference in the lives of our children."

Ms. Hurley's school, located on the University of Hartford campus, employs Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences, which proposes that there are many kinds of intelligence that are important aspects of human capabilities. Therefore, in addition to linguistic and logical/mathematical intelligence, teaching also focuses on visual/spatial, musical, bodily/kinesthetic, naturalist, interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligences. The school is part of the Capitol Region Education Council's (CREC) magnet school program.

"The Capitol Region Education Council is very proud of Joan. She is an excellent teacher who is revered by her colleagues, and adored by the children and families that she serves. She is truly deserving of this remarkable distinction," said Bruce E. Douglas, Ph.D., CREC's executive director.

Her fellow teachers describe her as: "inspiring," "dedicated," "passionate about teaching," and "as a teacher who is not deterred by a challenging student. It is typical to see her classroom filled with past and present students before and after school helping out, sharing stories or being coached by Joan."