



DENISE W. MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

For Immediate Release:
January 20, 2016

For more information:
Patrick Gallahue: (860) 509-6255
Cell: (860) 463-5939

- PRESS RELEASE -

SECRETARY MERRILL PRESENTS DIANE SMITH WITH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES OF STATE AWARD

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill honored Diane Smith with the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) Medallion Award.

Secretary Merrill said, “Diane’s many accomplishments are known well beyond Connecticut but those of us who know her best have long admired her continued dedication to our state. She has been a loyal advocate for non-profits, quality journalism and a champion for the advancement of women. For your incredible work on behalf of our state, thank you.”

Smith said, “I am honored to receive this NASS Award from Secretary Merrill, and grateful to the Connecticut Network and Connecticut’s Old State House for giving me the opportunity to encourage people to be engaged in our democracy. No matter which side of the aisle you align with, I sincerely believe that being involved with local government and exercising the right to vote is our duty as Americans. That’s what it means to have a government of, by and for the people.”

Diane is the President of Diane Smith Media and the Senior Producer for Program Development at the Connecticut Network. As a news reporter and anchor, Diane has won Emmy awards for her work on WTNH-TV and CPTV. She co-hosted the Morning Show on WTIC-Newstalk1080 and is a frequent on-air contributor to CT Public Television. In addition to co-authoring a groundbreaking book on solving the American obesity crisis, Diane has published six books based on her “Positively Connecticut” TV series, the longest running local TV series in state history.

Diane serves on the boards of the Girl Scouts of CT and the CT Women's Council as well as the advisory council of the non-partisan Women's Campaign School at Yale.

The NASS Medallion Award was created to honor individuals, groups or organizations with an established record of promoting the goals of the National Association of Secretaries of State. In particular, it emphasizes contributions to one or more of the six following areas: elections, specifically voter education and participation; civic education; service to state government, in particular on the work of the office of the Secretary of State and a commitment to giving.