

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**TO BE PROPOSED:
January 5, 2011**

WHEREAS: Dr. Ellen G. Stokoe, Principal of Edward Morley Elementary School in West Hartford, has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills;

WHEREAS: She has been chosen by her peers at the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) as Connecticut's 2010 Elementary School Principal of the Year/National Distinguished Principal of the Year;

WHEREAS: She has brought great honor to her community, her state and her profession;
and

WHEREAS: She served as Connecticut's representative in the 2010 National Distinguished Principal of the Year Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS DR. ELLEN G. STOKOE WITH GREAT APPRECIATION FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDUCATION PROFESSION.

Approved by a vote of _____ this fifth day of January, Two Thousand Eleven.

Signed: _____
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary
State Board of Education

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**TO BE PROPOSED:
January 5, 2011**

WHEREAS: Jacquelyn L. Gilmore, Assistant Principal of North End Middle School in Waterbury, has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills;

WHEREAS: She has been chosen by her peers at the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) as Connecticut's 2010 Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year;

WHEREAS: She has brought great honor to her community, her state and her profession; and

WHEREAS: She served as Connecticut's representative in the 2010 National Assistant Principal of the Year Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS JACQUELYN L. GILMORE WITH GREAT APPRECIATION FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDUCATION PROFESSION.

Approved by a vote of _____ this fifth day of January, Two Thousand Eleven.

Signed: _____
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary
State Board of Education

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**TO BE PROPOSED:
January 5, 2011**

WHEREAS: Dr. Stacey G. Gross, Principal of Western Middle School in Greenwich, has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills;

WHEREAS: She has been chosen by her peers at the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) as Connecticut's 2010 Middle School Principal of the Year;

WHEREAS: She has brought great honor to her community, her state and her profession;
and

WHEREAS: She served as Connecticut's representative in the 2010 National Middle School Principal of the Year Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS DR. STACEY G. GROSS WITH GREAT APPRECIATION FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDUCATION PROFESSION.

Approved by a vote of _____ this fifth day of January, Two Thousand Eleven.

Signed: _____
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary
State Board of Education

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**TO BE PROPOSED:
January 5, 2011**

WHEREAS: Jeffrey A. Provost, Assistant Principal at East Lyme High School in East Lyme, has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills;

WHEREAS: He has been chosen by his peers at the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) as Connecticut's 2010 High School Assistant Principal of the Year;

WHEREAS: He has brought great honor to his community, his state and his profession; and

WHEREAS: He served as Connecticut's representative to the 2010 National Assistant Principal of the Year Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS JEFFREY A. PROVOST WITH GREAT APPRECIATION FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDUCATION PROFESSION.

Approved by a vote of _____ this fifth day of January, Two Thousand Eleven.

Signed: _____
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary
State Board of Education

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**TO BE PROPOSED:
January 5, 2011**

WHEREAS: Timothy J. Sullivan, Jr., Principal at Classical Magnet School in Hartford, has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills;

WHEREAS: He has been chosen by his peers at the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) as Connecticut's 2010 High School Principal of the Year;

WHEREAS: He has brought great honor to his community, his state and his profession; and

WHEREAS: He served as Connecticut's representative to the 2010 National High School Principal of the Year Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS TIMOTHY J. SULLIVAN, JR. WITH GREAT APPRECIATION FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDUCATION PROFESSION.

Approved by a vote of _____ this fifth day of January, Two Thousand Eleven.

Signed: _____
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary
State Board of Education

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**TO BE PROPOSED:
January 5, 2011**

WHEREAS: Dr. Michelle S. Zeuschner, Assistant Principal at Andover Elementary School in Andover, has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills;

WHEREAS: She has been chosen by her peers at the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) as Connecticut's 2010 Elementary School Assistant Principal of the Year;

WHEREAS: She has brought great honor to her community, her state and her profession; and

WHEREAS: She served as Connecticut's representative to the 2010 National Elementary School Assistant Principal of the Year Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS DR. MICHELLE S. ZEUSCHNER WITH GREAT APPRECIATION FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDUCATION PROFESSION.

Approved by a vote of _____ this fifth day of January, Two Thousand Eleven.

Signed: _____
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary
State Board of Education

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**TO BE PROPOSED:
January 5, 2011**

WHEREAS: Dr. Elizabeth Osga, Superintendent of Regional District 18 Public Schools, has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills;

WHEREAS: She has been chosen by her peers at the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) as Connecticut's 2011 Superintendent of the Year;

WHEREAS: She has brought great honor to her community, her state and her profession; and

WHEREAS: She will serve as Connecticut's representative in the 2011 National Superintendent of the Year Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS DR. ELIZABETH OSGA WITH GREAT APPRECIATION FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDUCATION PROFESSION.

Approved by a vote of _____ this fifth day of January, Two Thousand Eleven.

Signed: _____
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary
State Board of Education

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**TO BE PROPOSED:
January 5, 2011**

WHEREAS: Tony Rigazio-Digilio, professor of Educational Leadership at Central Connecticut State University, has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills;

WHEREAS: He has been chosen by his peers at the Connecticut Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (CASCD) as Connecticut's 2011 Education Leader of the Year; and

WHEREAS: He has brought great honor to his community, his state and his profession.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS TONY RIGAZIO-DIGILIO WITH GREAT APPRECIATION FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDUCATION PROFESSION.

Approved by a vote of _____ this fifth day of January, Two Thousand Eleven.

Signed: _____
Mark K McQuillan, Secretary
State Board of Education

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Mark K. McQuillan, Commissioner of Education

SUBJECT: Resolutions Honoring Outstanding Educators: the Connecticut Association of Schools' (CAS) Elementary School Principal of the Year/National Distinguished Principal; Middle and High School Principals of the Year; and Elementary, Middle and High School Assistant Principals of the Year; the Connecticut Association for Public School Superintendents' (CAPSS) 2010 Superintendent of the Year; and the Connecticut Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development's (CASCD) Education Leaders of the Year.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to honor the following eight education leaders:

Dr. Ellen G. Stokoe, CAS 2010 Elementary School Principal of the Year/National Distinguished Principal of the Year;

Dr. Stacey G. Gross, CAS 2010 Middle School Principal of the Year;

Timothy J. Sullivan, Jr., CAS 2010 High School Principal of the Year;

Dr. Michelle S. Zeuschner, CAS 2010 Elementary School Assistant Principal of the Year;

Jacquelyn L. Gilmore, CAS 2010 Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year;

Jeffrey A. Provost, CAS 2010 High School Assistant Principal of the Year;

Dr. Elizabeth Osga, CAPSS 2011 Superintendent of the Year; and

Dr. Tony Rigazio-Digilio, CASCD 2011 Educational Leader of the Year.

Historical Context and Background Information

These eight outstanding Connecticut school leaders were selected through statewide searches coordinated by CAS, CAPSS and CASCD.

The search committees of CAS, acting on the recommendations of superintendents, parents, teachers, fellow principals, community representatives and others, invited nominees to prepare portfolios for each committee (National Distinguished Principal of the Year; Middle and High School Principals of the Year; and Middle and High School Assistant Principals of the Year) to review. Each portfolio included writing samples, letters of recommendation, statements of school accomplishments, lists of educational preparation, statements of community involvement and other materials designed to shed light on the candidates' work and personal qualities. Each search committee was comprised of active principals, retired principals, past recipients of the award, community members and staff. Each committee screened the applicant pool and selected finalists for closer review. Each finalist received an on-site visit from members of the search committee who toured the schools, interviewed superintendents, teachers, students, support staff, members of the board of education, fellow administrators and the nominees themselves.

Dr. Ellen G. Stokoe is the principal at Edward W. Morley Elementary School located in West Hartford and is the CAS 2010 Elementary School Principal of the Year/National Distinguished Principal of the Year. She began her career in 1969 as a classroom teacher in an elementary school in Ohio. She returned to Connecticut in the mid 1970s and since 1985 has been serving the West Hartford Public Schools in a number of capacities including teacher, town-wide curriculum specialist and interim principal. In 2000, she was appointed the principal at Edward W. Morley Elementary School. She earned both her Bachelor and Master of Science degree from Central Connecticut State University and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Connecticut.

With a single-minded drive to ensure success for every child in her care, Dr. Stokoe has fostered a vibrant, caring, student-oriented culture where students can grow socially and emotionally as well as academically. Fellow West Hartford principal Margaret Beecher says, "Ellen has established a school climate that is positive, warm and inviting. Morley is, simply stated, a happy place to be." In her ten years as principal at Morley, Dr. Stokoe has been the driving force behind a number of new programs that have helped to improve student learning, expand family involvement in the schools, and support professional development opportunities for teachers.

One of the most successful initiatives she has implemented is the *Discipline with Love and Logic* program, a national model designed to help parents develop skills that will enable their child to learn responsibility, make choices and face consequences. This is one of many programs at Edward W. Morley Elementary School that have resulted in increased parent engagement.

As a direct result of Dr. Stokoe's efforts, Morley has the highest proportion of parent volunteers in the district.

Dr. Stacey G. Gross is the principal at Western Middle School located in Greenwich and is the 2009 Middle School Principal of the Year. Dr. Gross earned her Master of Science degree, administrative certification and doctor of education from Fordham University in New York. She began serving the Greenwich Public Schools in 1992 as a special education teacher at Greenwich High School. In 2003, she was promoted to housemaster at the high school, a position she held for three years before being appointed principal at Western Middle School.

Upon her arrival at Western Middle School in 2006, Dr. Gross worked tirelessly with staff to establish a clear vision for meeting the individual needs of all of her students. Dr. Gross concerned herself as much with her students' social and emotional welfare as with their academic performance. During her four years at Western Middle School, Dr. Gross has distinguished herself as a reform-minded, progressive and innovative leader. With an ever present focus on teaching and learning, she has been the driving force behind a number of successful initiatives. Among her many accomplishments, she is credited with redesigning the school schedule to allow for expanded course offerings and extended learning time for struggling students; coordinating data teams which use assessment data to refine instruction and, ultimately, improve student achievement; establishing an advisory program to provide opportunities for more meaningful connections between students and teachers; and increasing minority student involvement in extra curricular activities.

Timothy J. Sullivan, Jr. is the principal at Greater Hartford Classical Magnet School located in Hartford and is the 2009 High School Principal of the Year. A 21 year educator, Mr. Sullivan has served the Hartford Public Schools and the greater Hartford community for his entire professional career. After earning both his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Wesleyan University, he began his career in education in 1989 as a teacher at Weaver High School. In 2001, he was appointed assistant principal at Bulkeley High School, where he served for three years, before assuming his current position as principal at Greater Hartford Classical Magnet School.

Upon Mr. Sullivan's arrival at Greater Hartford Classical Magnet School in 2004, he set about building a cohesive school community guided by one unifying purpose: to prepare each and every student to gain acceptance at a competitive four year college. Mr. Sullivan is a principal of an urban school where 52 percent of the students receive free or reduced price lunches; he has succeeded in boosting the academic achievement of a diverse student body while at the same time enhancing the social and cultural climate of the school. Mr. Sullivan spends a significant portion of his time in the classroom conducting informal evaluations of his staff and providing them with constructive feedback. This evaluation system, which has expanded to involve staff in monthly peer review cycles, has been a prototype for other schools in the district and has had a measurable impact on teaching and learning at the Greater Hartford Classical Magnet School.

Dr. Michelle Zeuschner is the assistant principal at Andover Elementary School located in Andover and is the 2010 CAS Elementary School Assistant Principal of the Year. She is also the director of special education at Andover Elementary School. A 1990 graduate of the University of Hartford, Dr. Zeuschner

earned her Master of Science degree from Ohio University and her doctorate from the University of Connecticut. She began her professional career in 1993 as a special education teacher at West Hartford's Ben Bronz Academy, a day school for learning disabled students. During her 13 years at the academy, she was promoted from classroom teacher to head teacher and, ultimately, to assistant education director. In 2006, she was appointed to assistant principal at Andover Elementary School. Since joining the Andover Elementary School administration, Dr. Zeuschner has secured grant money for and led the expansion of the Andover Elementary School preschool program, has revised the school's special education procedures, has guided her staff through the implementation of AIMSWeb, an internet-based data management and student monitoring system, and has adapted the school schedule so that teachers can devote more time to planning, collaboration and individualized student instruction.

Jacquelyn Gilmore is the assistant principal at North End Middle School located in Waterbury and is the 2009 CAS Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year. A 19 year educator, Ms. Gilmore has served the Waterbury Public Schools and the greater Waterbury community for her entire professional career. After earning her Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) in 1990, she took her first job as a health and physical education teacher at North End Middle School. She subsequently earned her master's degree from SCSU and her sixth year certificate from Sacred Heart University in New Haven. In 1999, she became supervising vice principal at the Kingsbury and Sprague Schools in Waterbury, where she worked for four years before assuming her current position as assistant principal at North End Middle School.

During her 6 ½ years as assistant principal, Ms. Gilmore has demonstrated an exceptional ability to find and build upon the strengths of her staff members, to generate community support for and involvement in school programs, and to foster a positive school climate with staff and students. She is the driving force behind a number of successful programs. She conceived and implemented the "Our Time" initiative, which extends the length of the homeroom period to provide opportunities for more meaningful interactions between students and teachers; she helped develop the new literacy lab to support students who have scored at the basic or below basic level on the Connecticut Mastery Test; and she promoted the Positive Behavior Support program, which helps build a culture of trust and respect among students and teachers.

Jeffrey Provost is the assistant principal at East Lyme High School located in East Lyme and is the 2009 High School Assistant Principal of the Year. He earned his undergraduate degree from Central Connecticut State University in 1993 and his master's degree from Southern Connecticut State University in 1999. A lifelong resident of East Lyme and a product of the East Lyme Public Schools, he was eager to serve the East Lyme School District, joining the staff of East Lyme High School immediately after college. In 1998, after three years as a teaching assistant and classroom teacher, he was handpicked to establish and oversee the alternative education program for at risk students. His successes in this role ultimately led to his appointment as East Lyme High School assistant principal in 2003.

Mr. Provost is credited with building a cohesive school community, which is responsive to the educational needs of all of its students. Since joining East Lyme High School administration, he has introduced several programs designed to create a nurturing, safe community where each member feels valued and supported. In collaboration with the school psychologist, he developed the Student Support Program (SSP). The program serves a population of at risk students who do not meet the state requirements for special education services. SSP is a voluntary initiative designed to help meet struggling students' academic, social and emotional needs by pairing them with a teacher who provides individualized instruction and attention. Under his leadership and guidance, the program has flourished, with more than 80 students and 50 teachers actively involved over the past two years. The benefits have been widespread and have been felt by staff and students alike. The school has experienced a significant decrease in behavioral referrals and a reduction in the number of alternative education students. Furthermore, the faculty participants have indicated that the program has positively influenced their instructional practices and approaches.

The Superintendent of the Year Program, directed by CAPSS, is open to all public school superintendents in the state. The Superintendent of the Year is recognized for outstanding leadership that results in improved

student learning and enhanced professional development. The superintendent receiving this distinction has inspired his district to excellence by providing leadership for learning, fostering communication, demonstrating professionalism and promoting community involvement.

Dr. Elizabeth Osga has served as Superintendent of Schools in Regional District 18 Public Schools since August 2008. Dr. Osga was selected because of the exemplary leadership that she has given to the Regional District 18 schools particularly in the areas of introducing and adapting models of educational walk throughs and rounds in two districts, facilitating the development of a standards based rubric for professional evaluation, establishment of a self-funding childcare program for children of teen parents and staff, contributed to the design and development of writing and language arts curriculums across the state through the teaching of four different State Institutes of Teaching and Learning and over 30 workshops.

Dr. Osga began her career as an elementary teacher in Stonington, Connecticut. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education at Southern Connecticut State University, a Master of Science degree in Reading and Language Arts at Eastern Connecticut State University, her sixth year in Teaching the Talented at University of Connecticut and her Ph.D. in Educational Administration at University of Connecticut.

Dr. Osga achieved successful passage of a \$70 million building project for Griswold when few people believed it would not have a chance; passage of \$47.8 million building project (Region 18) in the fall of 2008 (after economic downturn commenced) and the successful collaboration with legislators to ensure the project would move forward as a renovation; and establishment of self funding childcare program for the children of teen parents and staff (Griswold).

The Education Leader of the Year recognition, directed by CASCD, is open to all CASCD members. Participants must submit a portfolio demonstrating their leadership abilities and contributions to education at the local, state and/or national levels. Portfolios are reviewed based on the individual's educational leadership and specifically his work in the areas of curriculum development, supervision and staff development. A panel of top education leaders from throughout the state screens the finalists' portfolios and conducts interviews.

CASCD is proud to announce that Tony Rigazio-Digilio is the 2011 CASCD Educational Leader of the Year and has been selected as the CASCD Educational Leader of the Year for 2011. Dr. Rigazio-Digilio is a professor of Educational Leadership at Central Connecticut State University located in New Britain, Connecticut. He is a published author in assessment, strategic planning and leadership and has worked with several Connecticut educational organizations and school districts.

Recommendation:

It is my pleasure to recommend that you honor these eight distinguished educators.

Follow-up Activities:

Dr. Ellen G. Stokoe participated in a two-day national recognition event along with National Distinguished Principals from each of the other forty-nine states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands in October. Dr. Stacey G. Gross and Timothy J. Sullivan represented Connecticut in the National Principal of the Year Award program sponsored jointly by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and MetLife. Dr. Michelle S. Zeuschner, Jacquelyn L. Gilmore and Jeffrey A. Provost were selected by CAS to represent Connecticut in the National Assistant Principal of the Year Award Program sponsored jointly by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and Virco, Inc. Dr. Elizabeth Osga will be honored at the AASA National Conference in Education in Denver on February 17, 2011.

Prepared by:

Lol Fearon, Bureau Chief
Bureau of Accountability and Improvement

Reviewed by:

Lol Fearon, Bureau Chief
Bureau of Accountability and Improvement

Approved by:

Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Associate Commissioner
Division of Teaching, Learning and
Instructional Leadership

January 5, 2011