

**V.I.M.**

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

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

WHEREAS: Lori Farkash, a second grade teacher at Moses Y. Beach Elementary School in Wallingford, has demonstrated superior teaching skills;

WHEREAS: She has been chosen by a panel of Connecticut science educators as a 2010 State Science Finalist for a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching;

WHEREAS: Her exemplary science teaching serves as an inspiration to her students and represents Connecticut's high expectations for science teachers; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS LORI FARKASH WITH GREAT APPRECIATION FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ART OF ELEMENTARY SCIENCE TEACHING.

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

**DATE:** January 5, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching:  
2010 Presidential Award State Finalist

*Executive Summary*

**Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to honor a Connecticut teacher who has been selected as a finalist for a Presidential Award for Excellence in Secondary Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). The PAEMST program correlates with the State Board of Education priority of high academic achievement of all students in reading, writing, mathematics and science, in that it recognizes excellent educators who believe that all students, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity or socioeconomic status, can achieve at high levels in mathematics and science. In addition to honoring individual achievement, the goal of the PAEMST Program is to exemplify the highest standards of mathematics and science teaching.

**History/Background**

The PAEMST Program was established in 1983 by the White House and is administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Each of the 50 states and four U.S. jurisdictions can submit up to three state finalists in each discipline, mathematics and science, as candidates for the Presidential Award each year. A national selection panel reviews the finalists' applications and may recommend to the White House one science finalist and one mathematics finalist as Presidential Awardees. The President of the United States announces the awardees for each state. All awardees receive a citation signed by the President of the United States, a \$10,000 award from NSF, and an expenses-paid trip for them and their guests to attend a series of recognition events in Washington, D.C. These events include an award ceremony, celebratory receptions, professional development programs, and discussions with policymakers on how to improve mathematics and science education.

**Recommendation and Justification**

I recommend that the Board recognize Lori Farkash, a second grade teacher at Moses Y. Beach Elementary School in Wallingford, as Connecticut's science finalist for a Presidential Award for Excellence in Elementary Science Teaching. If she is selected as a

PAEMST Awardee, she will join an elite group of over 4,000 talented educators who have both deep content knowledge of the subjects they teach and the ability to inspire and enable students to be successful in these areas.

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