

THE ANNE MARIE MURPHY PARAEDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD



In March 2013, the Connecticut State Department of Education and the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council renamed the Connecticut Paraeducator of the Year Award the Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award, in honor of Anne Marie Murphy, a special education paraprofessional who lost her life during the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012.

Anne Marie was born July 25, 1960 in Mount Kisco, NY, the daughter of Dr. Hugh and Alice McGowan. She graduated from St. Mary's School in Katonah, NY, John F. Kennedy High School in Somers, NY, and Southern Connecticut State University with a Master of Science in education. She leaves behind four courageous children, Kelly, Colleen, Thomas, and Paige.

After the tragedy, the family of Dylan Hockley released a statement saying that their 6-year old baby boy died in the loving arms of Mrs. Murphy:

"We take great comfort in knowing that Dylan was not alone when he died, but was wrapped in the arms of his amazing aide, Anne Marie Murphy. Dylan loved Mrs. Murphy so much and pointed at her picture on our refrigerator every day. Though our hearts break for Dylan, they are also filled with love for these and other beautiful women who all selflessly died trying to save our children."



ANNE MARIE MURPHY 2019 PARAEDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

RECOGNITION CEREMONY AND RECEPTION

November 14, 2018

A.I. Prince Technical High School
401 Flatbush Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

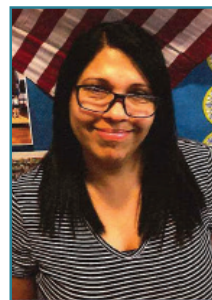
ANNE MARIE MURPHY
2019 PARAEDUCATOR OF THE YEAR
RECOGNITION CEREMONY & RECEPTION

Welcome:	Sharon M.S. Fuller, Consultant, Talent Office
Student Performance:	Evan Cintron, Saxophone Caleb Duval, Bass Cole Olson, Guitar CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts
Opening Remarks:	Bryan Klimkiewicz, Bureau Chief, Special Education
Congratulatory Remarks:	Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson, Connecticut State Board of Education Dr. Estella López, Vice Chairperson, Connecticut State Board of Education
Presentation of Certificates:	Dr. Sarah J. Barzee, Chief Talent Officer
2019 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year:	Marisol Rodriguez, Hartford Public Schools Introduced by Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, Superintendent, Hartford Public Schools
Reflections from the 2018 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year:	Karen Mylly, Colchester Public Schools
Closing:	Dr. Sarah J. Barzee, Chief Talent Officer Sharon M.S. Fuller, Consultant, Talent Office
Nominees:	
Tykeshia Henry, Bridgeport	Sue Yin Kahler, Norwalk
Deneen Azzolino, Brooklyn	Jessica Gaudreau, Plainfield*
Theresa Campanelli, Canton	Leokadia Seeds, Plymouth
Blair Barnette, Colchester*	Martha Sabourin, Putnam
Andrea Escobar, CES	Catherine Moyse, Region 9
Diane S. Bailey, CREC*	Robin Hankey, Region 16
Melissa Stevens, Derby	Doris Zepf, Simsbury
Melissa Balda, East Hampton	Elizabeth Scanlon, Somers*
Lynda Tingley, East Hartford	Anne Lippincott, Southington
Pete Halpin, Glastonbury	Deborah A. Richard, Stafford Springs
Lisa Sorbella, Greenwich	Darlene DeRosa, Stratford
Marisol Rodriguez, Hartford**	Jacklyn Kirchmeier, Suffield
Tracy Rose, Killingly	Christie Akana, Thompson
Lori Duhaime, Lebanon	Diane Pekarul, Torrington
Elizabeth A. Lord, Madison	Rosa Solis, Wallingford
Cynthia Maria Widener, Meriden	Carey Pavelo, Watertown
LeeAnn Bigelow, Montville	Melanie Bell, Weston
Matthew Opdahl, New Fairfield	Patrice Mahder, Wethersfield
Linda J. Biscoe, Newtown	Jane Fromme, Windsor
Sharon Montesi, North Branford	Carol Douty, Wolcott

* Finalist ** 2019 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year

ANNE MARIE MURPHY
2019 PARAEDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

MARISOL RODRIGUEZ,
HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Mrs. Marisol Rodriguez began her career as a paraeducator 23 years ago after enrolling the oldest of her three children into the preschool program at Batchelder School in Hartford. The teacher was warm and supportive and quickly invited her to become a volunteer, working within her daughter's classroom. It became apparent to her the positive impact that the teacher and the support staff had and the way it affected children's academic and social achievement. Mrs. Rodriguez realized that

her passion was in working in a school and being the first to touch the lives of preschoolers and giving them the most positive experience possible to begin their educational journey. Marisol was fortunate to have outstanding fellow teachers and paraeducators who became role models and mentors for her as she first pursued obtaining a high school diploma. The diploma enabled her to begin her career in the Hartford Public Schools as a paraeducator where she has joyously enriched the lives of the countless preschoolers who have been in her classroom.

Mrs. Rodriguez was born and raised in Hartford and is a product of the Hartford school system. She lives with her husband of 30 years, Jaime, in East Hartford, CT. She proudly has raised three daughters, Michelle, Monica and Yelissa, and is the proud grandmother of four grandchildren who are the apples of her eye.

Marisol is currently working in preschool at Kennelly School in Hartford, CT. Her quest for education did not stop, as she graduated with a B.S. in Early Childhood Education from Charter Oak College at the age of 45. It is her firm belief that each person's educational journey never stops. As educators, we need to be current with the strategies and instructional practices that best support the varied needs of our students. As Connecticut's Anne-Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year, her message to paraeducators is simple: As educators we, too, need to be role models for our students and families to showcase how lifelong learning benefits everyone and leads to richer, more fulfilled lives and career opportunities.