



# NEWS

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DR. DIANNA R. WENTZELL, COMMISSIONER

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## **Governor Malloy, Lt. Governor Wyman and Education Commissioner Wentzell Issue Statements in Recognition of Teacher Appreciation Day**

In honor of National Teacher Appreciation Day Tuesday, Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, and Education Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell issued statements praising teachers for their commitment to Connecticut children and families.

Also Tuesday, Commissioner Wentzell will be joining 2016 National Teacher of the Year Jahana Hayes, a social studies teacher at Kennedy High School in Waterbury, at the White House for a ceremony with President Barack Obama and the teachers of the year from across the county.

“Our teachers make the future brighter for our children. Connecticut teachers spend every day engaging, inspiring, and nurturing a love of learning in children in classrooms all across our state. Thank you to all of the talented, hard-working educators in Connecticut for all that you do,” said Governor Malloy.

“Today is a great day to celebrate all of the teachers in our lives, and remind ourselves that the good things happening in education—a narrowing achievement gap, improving test scores, and higher graduation rates—are due to their commitment in our classrooms. We all have a role to play in preparing the next generation for success, but teachers are on the front lines of educating and inspiring our young people and deserve special recognition for their efforts. I want to thank Connecticut teachers for ensuring our students leave school with a strong academic foundation and as engaged citizens,” said Lt. Governor Wyman.

“I am so proud of all of the outstanding teachers in classrooms across Connecticut inspiring students to learn and grow. You are teaching our children that they can do anything to which they put their hearts and minds,” said Commissioner Wentzell. “I am also incredibly proud of our own National Teacher of the Year Jahana Hayes for shining her light so brightly and reminding us that every student matters and every student has their own bright light to shine. Happy Teacher Appreciation Day to all of the educators making a difference in the lives of Connecticut children and families.”

Hayes was named Connecticut Teacher of the Year in October and was honored at an awards ceremony in November at the Bushnell in Hartford. Her career as an educator goes back 13 years with the most recent 11 years in Waterbury. Her role as a social studies teacher extends beyond the walls of her classroom and into the community where she encourages her students to be active in projects that help their neighbors and improve the world around them.

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