



Robert Henry
Superintendent of Schools

Hartford Public Schools
960 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
(860) 695-8000

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: May 21, 2004
Contact: Jacquelyn Hardy at (860) 695-8409 or
Dr. Italia Negroni at (860) 695-8457

HARTFORD SELECTS TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

Four teachers, representing a variety of grades and subject areas, have been named as 2004-2005 Hartford Teacher of the Year finalists. They are Carol Gale of Breakthrough Magnet School, Denise Kennedy of Burns Elementary School, Amy Pericolosi of Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, and Patricia Sullivan of SAND Elementary School. One will be selected as Hartford's Teacher of the Year in June to represent the City in the statewide Teacher of the Year selection process.

"The Teacher of the Year program seeks to promote excellence in the teaching profession and leadership development among educators," said Robert Henry, Superintendent of Schools. "We're very proud of the many great teachers we have in our schools."

Carol Gale has been teaching at Breakthrough Magnet School for six years. Prior to teaching at Breakthrough she taught at Moylan and McDonough Elementary School in Hartford for six years.

Denise Kennedy has been working in the Hartford Public Schools as a Library Media Specialist for the past three years. Prior to coming to Hartford Public Schools she taught high school English and History.

Amy Pericolosi has been teaching tenth grade Biology and ninth grade Science at Sports & Medical Science Academy (SMSA) for six years. Prior to teaching at SMSA she taught science at Hartford Adult Education.

Patricia Sullivan is a Speech Language Pathologist at SAND Elementary School. She has been teaching in the Hartford Public Schools system for eight years.

Hartford Public Schools: Our Students! Our Community! Our Future!

The complete listing of teachers nominated by their schools is as follows: Rose Alvarado, Betances Elementary; Debra Avery, Hartford Magnet Middle; Shauna Brown, M. L. King Elementary; Jonathan Burdick, McDonough Elementary; Robin Boyko, Fisher Elementary; Julie Ann Clemens, M. D. Fox Elementary; Juan Dominguez, Wish Elementary; Sandra Felicissimo, Dwight Elementary; Carol Gale, Breakthrough Charter; Judith Greene, West Middle Elementary; Roald Haaland, Clark Elementary; Gayle Haddad Hills, Naylor Elementary; Donna Heikkinen, Kennelly School; Denise Kennedy, Burns Elementary; Debra Kleinman-Downey, Burr School; Amy Pericolosi, Sport & Medical Sciences Academy; Hilda Rivera, Kinsella Elementary; Blanca Sidavong, Hooker School; Patricia Sullivan, SAND Elementary; Carolyn Thomas, Rawson Elementary; and Arabelle Wesley, Mark Twain Elementary.

Hartford Teacher of the Year nominees are selected on the following criteria:

- Be a tenured K-12 teacher in Hartford Public Schools
- Exhibit exemplary teaching skills in the classroom
- Is dedicated to the belief that all children can learn
- Be active in community and humanitarian activities
- Plan to continue actively in the teaching profession

The four finalists, along with all Teacher of the Year nominees, will be recognized at the next Hartford Board of Education meeting on June 1st at 5:30 p.m. at Hooker Elementary School.