



**RECOGNIZES &
CELEBRATES
EXEMPLARS OF
EXCELLENCE**

**PROVIDES
PROFESSIONAL
GROWTH**

**PROMOTES
OUTSTANDING
WORK &
DEDICATION**

**MAKES
CONNECTIONS**

**IMPROVES
EDUCATION**

GOVERNOR'S EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR PROGRAM



New Jersey Department of
Education

Kimberley Harrington
Acting Commissioner
of Education

IMPACT OF THE GOVERNOR'S EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

The following comments from County Teachers of the Year, provide first-hand experiences and support just a few of the benefits of this recognition program.

As a County Teacher of the Year, I **made connections with other teachers, shared best practices in our team and faculty meetings, served as a mentor to new teachers, connected with colleges and universities and provided professional opportunities to my colleagues and district.** I had the opportunity to **spotlight our district's work** at the state and national level. This program pays untold and immeasurable dividends to everyone who takes advantage of it.

Being named a County Teacher of the Year is not only an honor achieved by few, but an **opportunity to join an elite group of educators that offer invaluable experience, wisdom, and strong pedagogical practices.** It felt great to have my fifteen minutes of fame, but also provided me with the confidence I needed to bring my skills to a new level. I received feedback and support from other County Teachers of the Year that **helped me identify areas where I could improve, as well as new practices I could implement in my own classroom.** It also established a sense of credibility with my peers that I took advantage of to share my teaching techniques with them. Together, we transformed the way our district teaches science and in turn, **improved student proficiency rates** on the NJ Biology Competency Test across the district.

Teaching is one of the most important jobs in the world! **Receiving recognition and respect from colleagues and peers truly motivates Teachers of the Year to become even better at the art of teaching.** Essentially, recognition like the Governor's Educator of the Year Program can be a **catalyst to lift the public teaching profession to greater heights in the eyes of the private sector.**

The distinction has **amplified my role as a teacher leader** within my school and district. It has allowed me the **opportunity to receive top-notch professional development training, and better yet, I have been able to take these innovative strategies back to my students, school and district.** This distinction has also connected me to the heart of education in New Jersey, and it has allowed me to keep my **district's finger on the pulse of New Jersey policy and initiatives.** Each day, I ensure that our district is **in-the-know** and has the ability to take advantage of the various grant opportunities and resources provided by the NJ Department of Education and school districts around the state.

As a County Teacher of the Year, I have **opportunities to fulfill my dual passions of remaining in the classroom inspiring students as well as expanding outreach as a teacher leader with colleagues.**

I can honestly say this program has made a **tremendous difference in the way I interact with my students as well as how I regard myself as a teacher and as a role model.** Being nominated and selected as County Teacher of the Year by my peers really helped to **increase my confidence in my teaching ability which in turn helped me to become a more confident teacher for my students.** I have been given the opportunity to meet with teachers throughout the state as well as teachers from other states and I am able to bring ideas and practices back to my school that have worked well at these other schools. I have been able to collaborate with other motivated and dedicated teachers in many different capacities and I have also been **given the opportunity to voice my opinion of best educational practices to both local and state officials.**