



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Elliot Krieger, Communications - (401) 222-8471
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Scituate High School Chemistry Teacher Named 2008 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year

In a surprise ceremony at the school, Governor Donald L. Carcieri today (December 3, 2007) announced that George Edwin Goodfellow, a chemistry teacher at Scituate High School, has been selected as the 2008 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Goodfellow, who has been a chemistry teacher for 39 years, now becomes eligible to be selected as the 2008 National Teacher of the Year.

“With 39 years of classroom experience, George Goodfellow is a veteran teacher who sets high standards and challenges his students,” Governor Carcieri said, in presenting the award to Mr. Goodfellow. “He not only makes science relevant to students’ lives, but he also makes learning fun. Without question, George Goodfellow is deeply devoted to using innovative teaching methodologies to empower students to achieve their academic goals. I have placed a special emphasis upon improving student performance in math and science. Teachers like George Goodfellow are contributing greatly to our progress.”

Mr. Goodfellow has taught at Scituate High for four years. Previously, he taught at New Bedford (Mass.) High School, and he has also been a chemistry instructor at Bristol Community College. He has conducted 11 workshops for teachers, and he was the winner of the 2003 Clarkson University Inspirational High School Educator Award.

His colleagues praise him for his patience, hard work, long hours, and devotion to his students. He provides parents with weekly e-mail updates about classroom events.

“George Goodfellow has devoted many years to the education of students from a variety of backgrounds, and in recent years he has spent a great deal of time instructing and mentoring his younger colleagues,” said Patrick A. Guida, Vice-Chair of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. “What I most admire about Mr. Goodfellow is his innovation and talent in making learning fun. If we are to make American Public Education superior globally, we will need more such innovation and talent in refocusing our popular culture on quality education. We are pleased to honor Mr. Goodfellow with this award.”

“Over his long and distinguished teaching career, George Goodfellow has taught more than 5,000 students, and he keeps a file of letters, photos, and e-mails from the many students whose lives he has influenced,” said Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. “Many of his students have gone on not only to college, but to graduate school in chemistry and engineering. But his finest accomplishment, he says, is to teach all of his students to have pride in themselves and their accomplishments and to instill in them the joy of learning. He will represent his profession well as Teacher of the Year.”

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