



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Elliot Krieger, Communications - (401) 222-8471  
Embargo until: Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - 1:30 p.m.

### **Barrington 5<sup>th</sup>-Grade Teacher Wins \$25,000 Milken Educator Award**

BARRINGTON – A 5<sup>th</sup>-Grade teacher at the Hampden Meadows School, Jennifer Theroux, was named today (October 27, 2008) as the Rhode Island recipient of a \$25,000 Milken Family Foundation 2008 Milken Educator Award.

Ms. Theroux, who has taught at Hampden Meadows since 2001, is highly regarded for working with students of all learning abilities in the same classroom – a practice known as “differentiated instruction” – and for using creative teaching practices and educational technology to push her students to deeper thinking and higher achievement.

A Barrington resident, Ms. Theroux holds a bachelor’s degree in theater from Roger Williams University and a master’s in elementary education from Rhode Island College. She earned National Board Certification in 2005.

“Jennifer Theroux is recognized today as an exceptional teacher and an inspiration to her fellow educators,” said Governor Donald L. Carcieri, in presenting Ms. Theroux with the Milken Educator Award. “As many of her colleagues have told us, her classroom always has a diverse group of students. While students work at their own level on the same material, they are all encouraged to participate in class discussions, to meet high standards, and to perform at their very best. With teachers like Jennifer Theroux at this school, it is no wonder that the Hampden Meadows School is among the top 10 schools in the state in reading, math, and science scores on the NECAP assessment.”

“Ms. Theroux is known for successfully integrating technology into every aspect of her curriculum,” said Robert G. Flanders, Jr., Esq., Chairman of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. “In teaching writing, for example, she led her students through all aspects of publication, including layout and design. This technique inspired her students – including many reluctant writers – to enjoy writing and to improve their work. As one of her colleagues told us, the words ‘no’ and ‘can’t’ are not part of her vocabulary.”

“The teachers at the Hampden Meadows School recognize Jennifer Theroux as a great colleague and a team player who practices the essence of Common Planning Time for educators,” said Patrick A. Guida, Esq., Vice-Chair of the Board of Regents and Chairman of the Barrington School Committee. “She shares her ideas with colleagues, and her fellow teachers note that she has been a resource for senior teachers and a mentor for new teachers at Hampden Meadows. She has been a huge part of the schoolwide success that has led us to honor Hampden Meadows as a 2008 Regents’ Commended School.”

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“Jennifer Theroux is known as a teacher with creative ideas and as someone with a real understanding of her students’ emotional as well as academic needs,” said Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. “For example, after September 11<sup>th</sup>, she had her students build a house, which they covered with letters expressing feelings of love. When a student in her class had behavioral issues, she took the time to talk with him privately every single day. By the end of the year, he had made great progress, socially and academically. We are glad that the Milken Family Foundation has honored her with this award.”

“As a 1994 Indiana recipient of a Milken Educator Award, I am particularly honored to represent the Milken Family Foundation and to accompany Governor Carcieri, Commissioner McWalters, and the members of the Board of Regents in recognizing the accomplishments of Jennifer Theroux,” said Dr. Jane Foley, the Milken Family Foundation Senior Vice President, Milken Educator Awards. “She represents the finest in the teaching profession, both for Rhode Island and for the entire country.”

The award, which comes with an unrestricted payment of \$25,000, honors exceptional educators for their work. Each recipient receives the award in a surprise ceremony; educators do not apply for the award, nor are they aware that they have been nominated for the honor.

Up to 80 educators around the country will receive Milken Family Foundation 2008 Milken Educator Awards this month. The program has been administered in Rhode Island since 1990, and there have been 67 Milken Award winners so far in the state.

