



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Two R.I. Secondary-School Teachers Win \$25,000 Milken Educator Awards**

Two secondary-school teachers were named today (Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>) as the Rhode Island recipients of the 2005-2006 National Educator Awards from the Milken Family Foundation.

Diana Petrosinelli, an English Teacher at Cranston High School East, and Andrew S. Wallace, a social studies teacher at Exeter-West Greenwich Regional Junior High School, received their awards this morning in surprise ceremonies at their schools. Each Milken Educator receives a \$25,000 unrestricted financial award.

Governor Donald L. Carcieri, who presided at the awards ceremonies, congratulated the two winners. "Rhode Island is proud to have teachers as dedicated and able as Diana Petrosinelli and Andrew Wallace," Governor Carcieri said. "In winning this national recognition, these two teachers represent the great work that teachers throughout Rhode Island do every day. As the son of a teacher, I have a deep appreciation for the important role teachers like Diana and Andrew play in the lives of our children, and in our state's future economic prosperity. I want to congratulate them on this honor and thank them for their efforts to improve the lives of Rhode Island's children."

"These two exceptional teachers will inspire their students and their colleagues as we move forward with the Board of Regents' agenda for the reform of secondary schools," said James A. DiPrete, Chairman of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. "I congratulate both of them on this wonderful honor."

"Their students and their colleagues have known for a long time that these two teachers – Diana Petrosinelli and Andrew Wallace – are among the very best. It's wonderful to see these two honored at the national level through this prestigious award from the Milken Family Foundation," said Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Dr. Jane Foley, a senior vice president of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards and a former Milken Educator herself, was on hand to present the awards to the winners. "The Milken Educator Award celebrates excellence in education but the Award itself is only a beginning," Dr. Foley said. "We honor these educators for what they have done, but also for what they are going to do. We believe that their capacity for leadership and self-direction promises even greater contributions to students, the profession, and society."

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Diana Petrosinelli, who lives in Cranston, has been an English teacher in grades 9-11 at Cranston High School East for the past five years. Previously, she taught at Woonsocket High School. She is the co-chairperson of the Cranston East School Improvement Team and she was formerly a project teamleader for the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative Wide-Scale Assessment Project.

Andrew Wallace, who lives in Connecticut, has taught at Exeter-West Greenwich Junior High School for the past 12 years. In addition to social studies, he also teaches courses in U.S. history, American civics, and world geography. He is a Middle School Team Leader and the District Technology Coach, and has been active in writing the social studies curriculum for the school. Both he and Ms. Petrosinelli are graduates of Rhode Island College.

The Milken Educator Awards provide recognition to exceptional teachers, principals, and other educators around the nation. The awards have been presented in Rhode Island since 1990, and there have been 63 recipients so far in the state.