



Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

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

Educator Recognition Celebration

September 26, 2013

Patricia Page

2014 Rhode Island State Teacher of the Year

Acceptance Speech

As I stand here, I am in awe of the collective level of intellectual capital that has gathered in this room. As a profession, we, as teachers, measure and promote our success through our students. We stand in the background. Well, tonight, your accomplishments are front and center. It's truly all about you. And together, with your family, friends and colleagues I applaud you.

As the 2014 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year, I would like to thank the Department of Education, the Selection Committee, my co-finalists, and the civic and industry sponsors who are here this evening. I also want to acknowledge the cadre of distinguished recipients who came before me, and my management team. East Greenwich School Committee Chair David Green, Superintendent Victor Mercurio, Principal Michael Podraza, and Vice Principal Timothy Chase, continuously support my unorthodox, but very relevant, project-based learning ventures.

I am honored to represent your intellectual capital and the talent and creativity of our 12,000 colleagues throughout the state.

You add value everyday,

You are relevant, and

It is you I have the honor to represent.

Thank you.