

David Moscarelli

Educator Recognition Ceremony Speech

September 27, 2014

While most educators feel very comfortable celebrating their student's achievements, many of us feel less comfortable receiving an award ourselves. Some of you may even be asking yourself "why me?" One of my predecessors Julie Lima-Boyle once said, "I'm not even sure if I'm the best teacher in my hallway, let alone in my district or state."

The fact is that you have been recognized by your peers for making an impact on students' lives and tonight, with your friends, family and colleagues, I applaud you.

Across Rhode Island there are 13,000 educators impacting the lives of 142,000 individual students. This results in millions of interactions between students and teachers every day. These interactions with students are often just little acts - listening, challenging, supporting, and sharing, yet they help to make connections that have an enormous impact.

They motivate students - to get out of bed and go to school, to rewrite a paragraph one more time, to fall in love with a book, to venture a question and risk an answer.

With so much talk in the press around the big issues of education policy and reform, tonight we pause and take time to celebrate you, the educators. You are where policy becomes reality. You translate the theoretical into the living, breathing human relationships that foster learning. You are where the difference in students' lives is truly made.

I am humbled and honored to have been chosen to represent you as the 2015 Rhode Island State Teacher of the Year. I would like to thank the Department of Education, the selection committee, my co-finalists, and all the sponsors that support the educator recognition program.

I'd also like to acknowledge my colleagues in the Foster-Glocester school system, some of whom are here tonight, who have supported me in innumerable ways to grow as an educator both in and beyond my classroom.

I stand here before you with great pride, knowing that I get to represent you, the educators, who are improving individual student lives every day through your millions of little acts.

Thank you.