



New London Public Schools

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DISTRICT'S FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM NAMED "ONE IN A MELON"

Voted Top Farm to School Program in Connecticut

New London – USDA's Food and Nutrition Service recently awarded New London Public Schools a "One in a Melon" award for administering an exemplary farm to school program. The school district was selected as the sole Connecticut winner of the award as it received the most public nominations.

"This award truly recognizes the important work of the district's farm to school initiative, as well as the farmer's commitment to working with schools," Samantha Wilson, the district's Child Nutrition Program Manager, said. "We work with more than a dozen farms and organizations that provide fresh fruits and vegetables for our students, and who help in the hands-on work of our school gardens. We know that students are more likely to eat a fruit or a vegetable if they had a hand growing it."

From March 15 – April 15, parents, teachers, community stakeholders, and students were invited to visit USDA's [Farm to School Census](#) website and nominate their favorite farm to school program to receive the award. According to the Census, 706 Connecticut school districts participate in farm to school activities, and a total of 5,254 school districts participate across the U.S.

Since 2014, New London Public Schools has been participating in farm to school activities. Every month, the district features its "Harvest of the Month" program, which allows students at every elementary and middle school a chance to taste test a featured local food item and then experience it as a part of the lunch menu later on that month. Some farmers participate in the taste tests and some even make time in the winter to visit schools and speak with students about agricultural careers. In addition, New London Public Schools participates in a processing project with two neighboring districts and more than a dozen local farms to process local food grown in the summer and fall months, to be used year round in each of the district's seven schools.

Farm to school programs help kids form healthy habits, learn where their food comes from, and develop an understanding of the importance of nutrition and agriculture. Results of the 2015 USDA Farm to School Census show that schools with robust farm to school programs report reductions in food waste, higher school meal participation rates, and increased willingness of the students to try new foods, notably fruits and vegetables. Census results also show that U.S. schools invested nearly \$800 million in local food from farmers, ranchers, fishermen, and food processors and manufacturers in the 2013- 2014 school year, which is money going directly back into local communities.

For more information about New London Public Schools' farm to school program, please visit newlondon.org/about_nlps/food_services.

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March 7, 2016

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NEW LONDON HIGH SCHOOL NAMES HEAD VARSITY FOOTBALL COACH

New London – New London High School is proud to announce that Mr. Juan Roman, a 1984 graduate of New London High School and active member in the community, has been named the Head Coach of the Varsity football team.

“Being a Whaler, I know of our great football tradition and level of expectations on and off the field,” Roman said. “As a former New London player and current coach, I am up to the challenge and am fortunate to lead one of Connecticut’s best football programs. It’s an honor to be entrusted with the opportunity to lead my alma mater into a new era of our football tradition. The limitless possibilities that our tremendous magnet school district offers the student-athletes of CT is truly exciting.”

A lifelong New London resident, Mr. Roman possesses an extreme passion for coaching and mentoring the youth of New London, and will bring his tremendous knowledge of the game of football to the field.

“Juan is well connected in the football community. He knows many collegiate coaches and is committed to positioning our student-athletes to play at the next level,” high school Principal Tommy Thompson said, “he shares the administrations beliefs in promoting character, college, community, and competitiveness.”

Roman’s oldest son is a 2015 graduate of New London High School and currently plays football for Yale University. His two younger children attend New London High School.

“We are ecstatic to hire a Whaler to lead our football program,” high school Athletic Director Chris Vamvakides said. “He has high expectations for the student athletes of New London on and off the field and his combination of positive attributes makes us very confident moving forward that we will be able to take our program to the next level.”

In 1983, Mr. Roman served as the tri-captain of the 1983 Class M State Championship Football Team and returned to New London High School in 2005 as an assistant Varsity football coach. In the following 11 seasons, the team qualified for the CIAC playoffs 8 times, played in the finals 4 times, and won the 2006 Class S State Championship. Seventy-six former Varsity football players have gone on to attend an institution of higher learning or joined branches of the U.S. Military with mentoring and support from Mr. Roman.

"As a parent I couldn't be more pleased on the selection of Juan Roman as our new football coach," Kasi Fletcher said. "It was not only great hearing Coach Roman's plans to rejuvenate New London's iconic football program, but learning of his plans to improve post-secondary education and career opportunities for our student athletes was the deal breaker. He's not only the type of coach that New London High School needs, he's the type of coach the community deserves. "

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THREE NLPS TEACHERS NAMED TO ‘CONNECTICUT DREAM TEAM’; WILL PARTICIPATE IN COMMON CORE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

New London – Three teachers from New London Public Schools will take part in what the state Department of Education describes as “an intensive professional learning session” on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards later this month.

New London’s teachers are part of a group totaling 97 K-12 professionals who represent 86 schools across Connecticut. This “Dream Team” will develop “high-quality resources” that will be shared with fellow teachers across the state, according to the state department’s release.

Laury LaMarche, a second grade teacher at Jennings Elementary School; Michelle Combs, an eighth grade math teacher at Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School; and Katherine Brodaski, a grade 9-12 remedial reading teacher at New London High School, will attend TeachFest Connecticut from April 25-27 in Hartford.

“Laury’s meticulous preparation, planning, lesson delivery and reflections are representative of the process and procedures of New London Public Schools’ finest teachers,” Laurelle Texidor, principal of Jennings Elementary School, said today. “Regardless of stressors, her creativity and delight in teaching are transferred to her students ... We look forward to results of Laury’s focus on the math common core standards and the Dream Team’s crucial work as a whole.

In addition to our three teachers, Maureen Ruby, supervisor of professional learning and career development; and Zato Kadambaya, math and science coordinator at New London High School, will serve as reading and math TeachFest coaches for LearnZillion.

“Laury, Katherine and Michelle are terrific representatives of the many outstanding teachers we have in the New London Public Schools,” Superintendent of Schools Nicholas A. Fischer said today.

According to the state department’s release, each educator selected for the “Dream Team” demonstrated the commitment and ability to scale their impact beyond the classroom. They were selected through a competitive statewide application on the basis of their content knowledge, grit, and understanding of the Common Core State Standards, the release said.

“This is a wonderful honor for our teachers,” Chief Academic Officer Katherine Ericson said today. “They not only deserve the recognition, but they will be an asset to Connecticut's team! We are very proud to have them representing our district.”

After participating in TeachFest, each “Dream Team” member will return to their schools and serve as teacher-leaders in facilitated online professional learning communities (PLCs).

“Katherine is an amazingly competent and dedicated professional educator who not only has a high level of expertise in reading and assessment, but is completely committed to providing New London High School students with the finest reading education she can,” Ruby said today. “She deeply believes that all of our students can learn and read at high levels. Resilient, passionate, and dedicated, there's no obstacle that will prevent Katherine from providing students with the instructional supports and guidance that will ensure their success. She truly cares about her students and they know it.”

Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School Principal Alison Ryan said today that Michelle Combs exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding teacher

“Like many teachers, Michelle uses her own time to research new strategies, watch webinars and attend professional development. Michelle ... coaches our young math department and is a member of our School Governance Council,” Ryan said. “She has committed herself to improving middle school mathematics, which is really is a diamond in the rough.”

To read the state's press release and see the full list of teachers click [here](#).

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June 20, 2014

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NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO OPEN SATELLITE SITE FOR JENNINGS STUDENTS; WILL ESTABLISH EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER FOR 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR

New London – Next year, with the relocation of six pre-school classrooms from Jennings Elementary School and Winthrop Elementary Magnet School, the school district will position itself to open a public Early Childhood Center for students in pre-kindergarten through first-grade.

The new classrooms will be located at the former Harbor School site on Montauk Avenue.

The center, which is scheduled to open for the 2015-16 school year, will support Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's commitment to universal pre-kindergarten and to preparing the state's students for twenty-first century careers.

"The importance of Early Childhood Education will set our youngest students on a trajectory for success," Chief Academic Officer Katherine Ericson said. "This groundwork at the earliest levels of public education for our students will enable their future teachers to develop their skills."

As part of the district's commitment to preparing students for successful lives as adults, the Early Childhood Center (ECC) will provide pre-kindergarten through first-grade students with a stronger literary foundation and enrichment in language and mathematics.

With rising student achievement levels, engaging academic experiences, stellar athletic programs and a commitment to lasting partnerships with local colleges, community partners, businesses, and organizations, New London Public Schools attracts students from approximately 18 surrounding towns. In addition, each year, the number of students choosing to attend New London Public Schools continues to grow. The district's student population is expected to rise next school year by about 200 students, bringing total enrollment to approximately 3,500 students.

In anticipation for the increase in student enrollment, the Board of Education committed to preserving the integrity of the former Harbor School building. Last month, in partnership with the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), a facility needs assessment of the school was completed.

An action plan has been developed to parcel out the work that needs to be completed by the beginning of the 2014-15 school year.

New London Public Schools and the City of New London have partnered to address the following facility improvements named in CREC's needs assessment: inspect and receive approval for the building's sprinkler and building-wide emergency notification systems (fire alarms, intercoms, etc.); provide wall and floor coverings that comply with fire code requirements for educational occupancies; update emergency and exit door lighting; and update all door locks and windows to provide security against entry when building is not in use.

New London Public Schools is working with local companies to meet all standards required before building occupation. We anticipate approval from the City of New London before the start of the school year.

As the ECC expands, New London Public Schools guarantees the same access to the world-class curriculum and instruction received by students at our elementary, middle and high school facilities. Next school year, each classroom at the former Harbor School building will be outfitted with the same technology provided to students at Jennings Elementary School and Winthrop Elementary Magnet School.

The district anticipates moving the current pre-k and first-grade-level teachers from Jennings Elementary School and Winthrop Elementary Magnet School this summer. The district is also pursuing the assignment of a school administrator, a building secretary, a guidance counselor and a school nurse for next school year.

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6 NEW LONDON TEACHERS TRAVELING THE WORLD FOR THEIR STUDENTS

Fund for Teachers Announces \$30,000 in Professional Learning Grants

April 5, 2016, NEW LONDON, CT – Today, in partnership with New London Public Schools and the Dalio Foundation, Fund for Teachers (FFT) announced 6 New London teachers as recipients of grants totaling almost \$30,000. As FFT Fellows, grant recipients will embark on self-designed professional learning odysseys this summer. New London's FFT Fellows will be traveling to 3 countries and 2 continents, spanning from the Pacific Northwest to Canada to Peru. New London teachers will return with new insights, connections and tools to benefit their students. These teachers collectively educate more than 150 students across 4 schools in the district.

New London's 2016 FFT Fellows include:

- **Ruth Stewart-Curley, Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School:** Exploring seismology in the Pacific Northwest, including visits to the University of Washington's Seismology Lab, Mt. St. Helens, California Academy of Science, and the Ghost Forest, in order to create a unit on earthquakes, tsunamis and plate tectonics that engages ESL Science students in STEM education.
- **Lisa Marien, Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School:** Studying with professional musicians and leading music educators in the field of contemporary *a cappella* music to create with students authentic ensemble experiences that develop higher order thinking, promote teamwork, ignite passion and cultivate the will to persevere in music and all areas of life.
- **Rebecca Reyer Cipriani, Renzulli Academy:** Participating in the Earthwatch Institute's "Climate Change at the Arctic's Edge" expedition in Churchill, Canada, to conduct water sampling, assess fish and frog health, document flora, and survey mammal and bird populations in order to model activities of professional scientists for middle school students.
- **Cathy Klein, Winthrop STEM Elementary Magnet School:** Participating in the "Educator Academy in the Amazon Rainforest" in Peru to learn how to use the Amazon as a backdrop for lessons and lab activities in New London.
- **Marybeth Mann and Andrea Mea, Winthrop STEM Elementary Magnet School:** Traveling to Peru to immerse into the Peruvian culture in order to develop an inquiry unit for students encompassing engineering, science, and literacy.

“The Fund for Teachers program is a great way to recognize the professional talent that we have within New London’s teaching profession,” Superintendent of Schools Dr. Manuel J. Rivera said.

“I am glad that New London teachers have been given this amazing opportunity provided by the Fund for Teachers program. Because of the Dalio Foundation, these teachers now have the opportunity to expand their experiences and education which they will bring back to New London and their classrooms to enrich the learning environment and expand the learning of New London’s students,” said Rich Baez, President of the New London Education Association. “Congratulations to all the teachers.”

The teachers learned their trips were selected and fully funded in surprise classroom visits by Superintendent Rivera, Rich Baez, FFT Executive Director Karen Webb, and Barbara Dalio. Barbara Dalio and her family’s Dalio Foundation encouraged public school teachers in Connecticut to design their dream professional learning opportunity and apply for the FFT fellowship to make that dream a reality; the Foundation provided the funding for this year’s FFT grant program in the state.

"The Dalio Foundation is truly fortunate to partner with New London Public Schools and Fund for Teachers to support public school teachers in pursuing their passions," said Barbara Dalio. "I am inspired by the creativity and energy of this year's FFT Fellows. I look forward to learning from them, and continuing to witness the wonderful difference they make for their students."

FFT annually awards grants to Pre-K – 12 teachers to pursue self-designed summer fellowships for professional learning. This year, more than 200 Connecticut teachers applied to FFT for grant funding. Connecticut’s FFT Fellows were chosen by local selection committees comprised of teachers, administrators, union leaders, and community stakeholders. Through the rigorous selection process, every proposal was read three times and carefully reviewed against FFT’s objective rubric. In total, the local selection committees selected 118 Connecticut teachers to receive more than \$475,000 in grant funding. The 2016 FFT Fellows teach in 76 schools and 37 districts across the state, and will travel to 40 countries.

“We are proud to partner with the Dalio Foundation and almost 40 public school districts across Connecticut to support 118 FFT Fellows, the largest and first statewide group of its kind,” said Karen Webb, FFT Executive Director. “As Fellows, teachers will explore learning beyond the walls of their classrooms. They will surely inspire a passion for lifelong learning with their students.”

Since 2001, FFT has awarded more than \$24 million in grants, empowering over 6,400 teachers to explore their passions, deepen their scholarship, and enhance their craft. FFT Fellows have worked and studied in 141 countries on all 7 continents and in 36 US states.

FFT Fellows become powerful change agents in their schools and communities. They inspire and challenge their students to apply their learning to real-world issues, embrace perseverance, take ownership of their learning and build empathy for others. For more information, visit: www.fundforteachers.org.

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