



Dorchester County  
Public Schools  
Every Child A Success!

# SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Diana L. Mitchell., Ed.D., Superintendent

DATE: April 17, 2018

## **Dorchester County Public Schools Selects Teacher of the Year and First-Class Teacher of the Year**

North Dorchester High School Spanish teacher Benedita Gomes has been selected as the Dorchester County Public Schools' Teacher of the Year for 2018-2019. Ms. Gomes, a 26-year teaching veteran, was chosen from a field of 11 finalists nominated by parents, teaching colleagues, and the community.

Besides teaching Spanish, Ms. Gomes is deeply involved in the life of the school. She is the Extended Day Coordinator for NDHS, sits on the Faculty Council, and advises student activities including the Spanish Honor Society, the International Club, the Sophisticated Ladies Club, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She has also organized and led many student trips, giving Dorchester County students the opportunity to travel to such places as Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Cuba, Belize, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Fiji, Australia, and New Zealand. Ms. Gomes holds degrees from Salisbury University, Delaware State University, New Life Bible College and Seminary, and Yorktown Business Institute.

About her recognition, Ms. Gomes said, "It is a privilege and an honor for me to serve Dorchester County Public Schools as the Teacher of the Year. This is a ride of a lifetime, one that I will never forget. Thank you DCPS!"

In addition, Elizabeth Geisinger, a Reading and Language Arts teacher at North Dorchester Middle School, has been chosen from six finalists as the First-Class Teacher of the Year for Dorchester County Public Schools for 2018-2019. This is a locally-sponsored recognition honoring a first-year teacher who has demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication.

A recent graduate of Kutztown University, Ms. Geisinger majored in secondary English education with a minor in Spanish, saying, "I knew it would be useful in diverse school settings." She decided she wanted to be a teacher in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and spent much of her youth preparing for her eventual career. She began to teach Sunday school when in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and by 11<sup>th</sup> grade had been put in charge of the Bible school at her church, selecting curriculum, recruiting teachers, organizing the schedule and managing the budget. During her college years she spent two summers teaching at the Lehigh Valley Summerbridge in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, serving as team leader during the second year, organizing field trips and mentoring other teachers on the team.

Ms. Geisinger said about her recognition: "As a first-year teacher, this year has definitely been tough. This recognition further proves that the challenges in teaching are well worth the rewards that you see every day in your classroom, and now throughout the county and community. I am incredibly grateful for the people in Dorchester County for welcoming me and helping me to become a better educator."

The annual Teacher of the Year and First-Class Teacher of the Year competitions are strongly supported through local business donations and contributions, including the free use of a vehicle for one year from Hertrich of Easton for the Teacher of the Year.



Dorchester County Teacher of the Year Benedita Gomes (left)  
with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Diana Mitchell



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Diana Mitchell (left) with  
Dorchester County Public Schools First Class Teacher of the Year Elizabeth Geisinger