

# NEWS

## Connecticut Department of Education

For Immediate Release

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### **Multicultural Conference and Award Winners Announced**

(Hartford, Connecticut) Educators from Connecticut and the New England region will convene Monday, October 16, 2006, for the **11th Annual Conference on Multicultural Education** at the Marriott in Farmington, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The event is hosted by the State Department of Education and the National Association for Multicultural Education. This conference has been a popular forum for educators working on ways to close the achievement gap, eliminate discrimination in schools and prepare all students for a diverse world of work. Participants learn innovative ways to teach diverse students, and about programs that successfully infuse multicultural education in the curriculum, and the work of exceptional individuals and programs engaged in multicultural education.

Participants will include PK-12 teachers, administrators, community activists, higher education faculty and students, and staff from educational organizations and agencies. The keynote speaker for this year's conference is Kevin Jennings, Executive Director of GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network).

The luncheon will feature the Annual Multicultural Awards. Two educators and two organizations will be honored for supporting multicultural initiatives.

- **Edward Linehan** has been selected as the *2006 PK-12 Multicultural Educator of the Year* in recognition for his work to promote multiculturalism in education. Described as a magnet school pioneer, he has been both a teacher and principal. Linehan was the first director of district magnet school offices in both New Haven and Hartford and is currently supervisor of the Public Schools of Choice Program for the New Haven Public Schools. He has supervised the development of more than half of the magnet schools now in operation in the state.

- **Dr. Lois Libby** has been selected as the *2006 Higher Education Multicultural Faculty of the Year* recipient in recognition of the impact she has had on the preparation of educators at Sacred Heart University. Dr. Libby's commitment to multicultural education is illustrated by her long history of involvement with Bridgeport Public Schools. As the supervisor of student teaching, she has shared her own experience of multicultural education with generations of teacher candidates. She has also supported her faculty members in creating reading and mathematics clinics in the Bridgeport public schools, and helped shape both curriculum and student interns in ways that recognize that children have many different ways of learning. Sacred Heart is one of the largest teacher preparation programs in the state, and the largest supplier of new teachers in Fairfield County.
- **The University of Hartford** is selected to receive the *2006 Multicultural Institution of the Year Award* in recognition of the number of initiatives and efforts taken to understanding issues of inequity and diversity. UH's active advocacy and generosity has made it the only four-year college in Connecticut to host a public magnet school on campus. Its education program has strong offerings in multicultural education. In addition, the program focuses on the recruitment and promotion of its multicultural faculty. The institution has also been recognized for its outreach efforts to students and community.
- **True Colors, Inc.**, has been selected to receive the *2006 Loel Greene Title IX/ Gender Equity Achievement Award*. True Colors, Inc. Sexual Minority Youth and Family Services is a non-profit organization that combats homophobia, gender bias and racism. The organization provides support, education and advocacy to those responsible for the health, education and well-being of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Youth and Families. Each year True Colors hosts the largest conference in the nation for youth and their service providers. Last March more than 2,800 social workers, professionals, public and private direct care staff, youth and families attended the two-day conference.

For more information on the conference, contact Bill Howe, education consultant at 860-713-6542 or by e-mail at [william.howe@ct.gov](mailto:william.howe@ct.gov).

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