

...AND THE WINNER IS



Jessica Boisclair/Daily Times

Amy Cronin holds her Crystal Apple Award, which was presented to her by the Horace Mann Insurance Company. The award recognizes teachers for their excellence in strategic, professional, collaborative, supportive, and reflective teaching.

Coventry teacher honored for excellence

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COVENTRY — Amy Cronin sat for hours with colleagues reading through applications of nominees for the Crystal Apple award; little did she know that she was actually the one chosen by administrators as its recipient.

"Amy was a perfect choice for this award," said Brooke Macomber, Vice Principal for Coventry High School. "She is so highly respected by teachers, students, administrators and parents. Absolutely every decision she makes is in

the best interest of her students."

Cronin said she was absolutely shocked when she realized that she was picked for the award last week.

"I'm on the committee for the Horace Mann Companies and we gave applications to the faculty to nominate teachers," she said. "After sitting for hours we came to a consensus and my name wasn't even in the mix and that was fine by me."

During a faculty meeting however, Collen Manuppelli from Horace Mann Insurance Company announced that Cronin had won the Crystal Apple, an

award that recognizes teachers for their excellence in strategic, professional, collaborative, supportive and reflective teaching.

"My reaction was definitely shock," she said. "I was confused at first and then I was shocked. It's a tremendous compliment to have the people I work with select me. It made me feel very humble, especially to be teaching for so long and to be recognized I didn't expect it at all."

Cronin began her career as an English teacher in South Kingstown before joining the Coventry School District 12 years

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Winner a teaching vet

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ago as a special education teacher.

According to a letter written to Cronin from Manuppelli, she chosen for the award because, "you are a team player who always works collaboratively with your fellow teachers. You always go above and beyond, working alongside the classroom teacher to deliver quality instruction."

She explained that she works in cooperation with a regular education teacher. Together, they help students be in successful in whatever classes they are taking.

Every year, Cronin is given an opportunity to teach in a different classroom. This year she collaborates with English teachers but she has also taught Biology, Spanish and Math.

"Because of that, I have the advantage to see many classrooms; to know the caliber of teachers that are in the building and to be selected, I just felt that much more appreciative," she said.

She said students are placed in various classrooms and she has the responsibility of supporting them, even if she is not physically in the room with them.

In order to do this, she typically meets up with her students in advisory, after school or in a program called academic lab.

"I try and make the students believe in themselves and always try to encourage and praise and let them know that I'm there if they need my help," she said. "I think above all, I want kids to feel empowered; to know that they can handle anything even if they do have a disability there are ways for them to over come it or compensate in a different way."

The letter also states that Cronin's, "work with the NEASC review, including your assis-



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Amy Cronin's Crystal Apple. She was chosen for the award for going above and beyond in teaching.

tance with the follow up reports, has been outstanding."

She explained that a few years ago she was asked to spearhead the process of getting the high school re-accredited.

Part of the plan was to have her and another colleague visit other people's classrooms to learn about the lives of students during their school day.

"I got to go to a photography class with a student I was assigned and I followed them for the day," she said. "That really helped give me a perspective I didn't have until that point."