

Coventry honors its 2013 Teacher of the Year

Tara D'Alano of Tiogue Elementary honored at annual Coventry staff welcoming program

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COVENTRY – She was so shocked, it took her quite a time for her to get her bearings after she accepted her golden apple.

“I can’t believe it,” said Tara D’Alano, who was named 2013 Coventry Teacher of the Year during the Best of Coventry annual staff welcoming program held in the Coventry High School auditorium Monday morning. “It’s always someone else. I never in a million years expected it to be me.”

A full auditorium of teachers, administration and school staff welcomed her with heavy applause and open arms after Coventry School Superin-

tendent Michael Convery made the announcement.

“When I was a child, I wanted to be just like my dad,” she said, “who was also a teacher who has recently retired.”

D’Alano has been teaching for more than 20 years. She began her career shortly after she graduated from Coventry High School in 1988. She was a resource teacher for the third, fourth and fifth grade at another school. Currently, she teaches third grade at Tiogue Elementary School.

She has learned after her many years of being at the head of the classroom, that each child has their own style of learning. Her job, she said, is to bring out the best in each child by recognizing that style.

“The most important role in my mind is to be a leader and a caring personality,” said D’Alano. “You’ve got to embrace everyone’s learning style and bring it forward. You do that by combining different types of instruction: games, textbooks, hands-on activities.”

One of the main challenges she faces each day in teaching, she said, is covering the large amount of material.

“This is certainly not unique to my classroom,” she said. “You feel like you’re always racing to get to each child and do everything.”

According to D’Alano, there’s nothing easy about teaching, but getting the opportunity to see the progress made when she compares the beginning of a



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Tara D’Alano (center) receives her golden apple from Coventry Superintendent Michael Convery during yesterday’s welcoming program at Coventry High. Looking on is 2012 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year Julie Lima-Boyle, an english teacher at CHS.

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Teacher honored by school dept.



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Convery shares a word with D'Alano after the presentation.

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year with the end, students have taken huge steps and having such wonderful support from colleagues and staff makes all the hard work come together.

"I'm a product of the Coventry school system and I know I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for my teachers," she said.

"It's awesome," said Convery. "She's been an educator for many years and this is a very long time coming."

Convery described D'Alano as talented, intelligent, outstanding, cre-

ative and unique.

"In my opinion," said Convery. "One of the finest characteristics about this teacher is her ability to empower students to become individuals with the necessary critical thinking skills to be successful in life."

He called her a natural leader, dedicated to excellence as an educator. She has been a role models for peers providing teachers support and guidance always communicating information on a regular and consistent basis.

"She truly represents the best in Coventry," said the School Superintendent.