



Submitted photo

Gov. Donald Carcieri and Kimball Hall (right), vice president, Amgen Rhode Island Operations, present Kristen Deschene of Western Coventry Elementary School with the 2010 Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence.

Amgen honors Coventry teacher

PROVIDENCE – Amgen honored teacher Kristen Deschene of Western Coventry Elementary School as one of four recipients of the 2010 Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence (AASTE) in Rhode Island. Ms. Deschene was formally honored at a banquet for all 2010 recipients of the Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence in Rhode Island on May 20, at the Providence Biltmore Hotel.

Ms. Deschene, a fourth-grade teacher at Western Coventry Elementary School and a resident of Riverside, is among 34 recipients of the 2010 Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence in locations where Amgen has operating sites: California, Colorado, Ken-

tucky, Massachusetts, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Washington and Canada.

Amgen said the program was designed by biotechnology company Amgen to recognize and honor extraordinary science teachers at the K-12 level who significantly impact their students through exemplary science teaching and who achieve demonstrated results in student learning. Each teacher will receive an unrestricted \$5,000 grant and their schools will receive a restricted \$5,000 grant which can be used for the expansion or enhancement of a school science program, science resources, or the professional development of the school's science teachers.

Nominations are solicited every fall

with winners selected based on the following criteria: innovative science lesson plan showcasing novel teaching methods in the classroom, creativity and effectiveness of teaching methods and the plan for the use of grant money to improve science education resources in their schools. With a longstanding commitment to science education, Amgen established the awards program to promote and encourage science excellence in public and private schools. Since the program's inception in 1992, Amgen has awarded more than \$2.5 million to educators who have made exceptional science-teaching contributions and who have significantly impacted the lives of their students.