



The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council  
invites you to

## BE A SPONSOR

of the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program,  
Connecticut's most prominent statewide teacher  
recognition program.



**The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program is recognized throughout the state as Connecticut's premier teacher recognition program.** School districts throughout the state participate in this prestigious program, nominating local teachers who have the opportunity to participate in a rigorous selection process with the hopes of becoming Connecticut's Teacher of the Year. Annually, Connecticut's superintendents escort their local teachers of the year to the Teacher of the Year Ceremony where they are joined by legislators, State Board of Education members, educational leaders, and family and friends in honoring these representatives of teaching excellence, as well as the individual chosen as Connecticut's Teacher of the Year.

**The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council invites you to be a sponsor of this respected program.** Sponsorship offers you a unique opportunity to showcase your support of education throughout the state at all levels of the educational community. Our sponsors are not only recognized at our Annual Ceremony, an event which draws hundreds of attendees, but throughout the selection process which involves representatives of preeminent professional organizations. Sponsors are also invited to attend the Empowered to Lead Symposium, an annual event focused on current educational issues attended by hundreds of educators from throughout the state and region.

**Sponsorship can take many forms.** Whether you choose to sponsor a particular event, provide a gift to a teacher's classroom, or become a program sponsor, your monetary or in-kind contribution will allow you and your organization to be seen statewide as a supporter of excellence in education.

In this packet you will find:

- Overview of the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council
- The Role of the Teacher of the Year
- List of Annual Events
- Benefits of Sponsorship

We hope you will consider this exciting opportunity to become one of our sponsors. Additional information is available upon request.

For more information, contact David Bosso (860-930-6668); [davidbosso@gmail.com](mailto:davidbosso@gmail.com) or Corey Nagle (860-690-0437); [teachercollaborate@gmail.com](mailto:teachercollaborate@gmail.com)

We look forward to hearing from you.

*"I am so thankful to have been given the opportunity this year to participate in many exciting professional development activities centered on teacher leadership presented by the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council. I have been inspired and invigorated. **Through this experience, I have re-defined in my mind what it means to be a teacher leader.**"*

## **What is the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council?**

The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council is an organization composed of past and present Connecticut Teachers of the Year, as well as individuals who represent distinguished organizations of Connecticut's educational community. **We are committed to the preservation and enhancement of the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program.**

Specifically, the purpose of the Council is

- to encourage quality education for each individual through quality teaching;
- to recognize the excellence and commitment of professional educators;
- to promote best practices within and outside the profession;
- to represent teachers and students as policy partners on the state and national level;
- to promote the image of education through public awareness; and
- to annually provide funding, guidance, and resources for the Connecticut Teacher of the Year selection process and ceremony.

The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council, in partnership with our sponsors and the Connecticut State Department of Education, develops programming aimed at engaging Teachers of the Year in activities and roles that allow them to share, learn, and advocate for best practices and policies in public education. Additionally, members of the Council serve on the Selection Committee for the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program and play an integral role in designing and conducting the annual Teacher of the Year Ceremony, the annual Empowered to Lead Symposium, and other professional growth opportunities for our recognized teachers. **In an effort to preserve and improve the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program, the Council works with corporate and organizational sponsors to provide funding for the program and resources for the Teacher of the Year.**

The Council is organized to operate as a non-profit entity and is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization. (EIN #27-2498234)



**2023 Connecticut Teacher of the Year and National Teacher of the Year Finalist, Carolyn Kielma (L) and 2022 Connecticut Teacher of the Year, Kim King (R).**

*"These twelve months have been incredible for so many reasons. The friendships, the knowledge, the memories, and the connections will remain with me for the remainder of my career. I am truly grateful to each and every person who played a part in creating this spectacular program. **I wish every Connecticut educator could have these experiences.**"*

## The Role of the Connecticut Teacher of the Year

The Connecticut Teacher of the Year proudly represents the excellence of Connecticut's 49,000 classroom teachers, serving as an ambassador for public education.

The Teacher of the Year is selected from an applicant pool of local award winners from Connecticut's 169 school districts. Each local Teacher of the Year submits a portfolio, which is read and rated by the members of a Selection Committee organized by the State Department of Education and the Council. Semifinalists are asked to come to Hartford for interviews with the committee. Four finalists are chosen and the Selection Committee conducts extensive site visits to their respective schools, during which time candidates are observed while teaching and the committee speaks to colleagues, students, administrators, and parents.

The annual Teacher of the Year Ceremony is an evening of celebration. Under the proud banner of our sponsors, each local Teacher of the Year is recognized in front of family as well as school district officials. The evening culminates with the Teacher of the Year's first formal address.

*"Thank you for the opportunity to interview for the CT Teacher of the Year. It was quite an honor to have the chance to talk to the committee and to share my perspective on teaching and learning. It is humbling to work among so many dedicated, outstanding educators, and it was incredibly gratifying to know how much time and care is devoted to this process."*



**Jahana Hayes, 2016 Connecticut Teacher of the Year and 2016 National Teacher of the Year, accepting her award from President Barack Obama. In 2018, she was elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. Photo courtesy of NBC News, 2016.**

As part of their tenure, the Connecticut Teacher of the Year speaks to both the educational community and the public-at-large. The Teacher of the Year speaks at education conferences and meetings, and addresses students, teachers, civic, governmental, college, and university groups. The Teacher of the Year is also likely to be called upon to serve on statewide committees and has many opportunities to interact with legislative and other governmental figures.

The Teacher of the Year's influence does not stop at the state's borders. Connecticut's representative joins State Teacher of the Year colleagues from around the nation as a participant in the National Teacher of the Year Program. Among many activities organized as a part of this professional experience, State Teachers of the Year attend national conferences, meet the President of the United States at the White House, and attend Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

The National Teacher of the Year is selected after a rigorous review and interview process and is introduced by the President of the United States in a Rose Garden Ceremony at the White House. Once officially named, the National Teacher of the Year travels across the nation speaking at educational conferences, to legislative groups, the public, and other interested groups.

**Wherever the Teacher of the Year goes, they have the opportunity to promote the Teacher of the Year Program and recognize the program's proud sponsors.**



**Meghan Hatch-Geary, 2020 Connecticut Teacher of the Year, at her official announcement ceremony, with Commissioner of Education (now U.S. Secretary of Education), Miguel Cardona (L) and Governor Ned Lamont (R). Photo courtesy of *The Hartford Courant*, 2020.**



Sheena Graham, the 2019 Connecticut Teacher of the Year. Photo courtesy of *The Connecticut Post*, 2018.

*“I just wanted to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunities offered during this past year. Beginning with the process of selection, the multitude of professional opportunities, and the amazing educators that I have been connected with, this has truly been the highlight of my teaching career. I have been inspired and elevated by the teachers and professionals that I have been fortunate to have engaged with.”*

The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council strives to design and implement timely, authentic, and impactful programming for recognized District Teachers of the Year from throughout Connecticut in order to enrich teachers’ skillsets in the areas of practice, policy, and advocacy. Feedback from participants is always positive, and many express a desire to remain engaged beyond their year of honor. The emphasis on cultivating teacher leader capacity is a driving force behind the professional growth opportunities the Council is able to offer, none of which are possible without the generous, ongoing support and commitment of our sponsors.



Members of the 2023 Semifinalist Cohort participating in the Mystic Seaport Museum Professional Development, one of the many memorable and rewarding programs offered each year.



Pictured (L-R) at the 2019 Empowered to Lead Symposium: Melissa Collins, 2023 Tennessee Teacher of the Year; Mandy Manning, 2018 National Teacher of the Year; Sydney Chaffee, 2017 National Teacher of the Year; Lauren Danner, 2017 Connecticut Teacher of the Year; Michael Dunlea, 2012 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year finalist.

*“This was an amazing day. The entire experience was worthwhile and beneficial, and I walked away feeling inspired and motivated to continue to grow in my own profession and influence others to do the same.”*



*“What a superb opportunity to collaborate with other leaders who thrive to make a difference in our profession. I felt supported and validated. Days like this should happen more often.”*

*“What an amazing way to start my year.  
I feel re-charged!”*



*“Wow!! What a terrific event today! I had a moment on my drive home to reflect on the day and how pleased I was to be with all of you.”*



Members of the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council at the Summer Celebration of Teaching and Learning in 2021. The Council is composed of Teachers of the Year, sponsor representatives, and educational stakeholders from across the state.



The Fall Social is an opportunity for Council members, major sponsors, and other guests to welcome and celebrate the new semifinalists cohort.

*“Thank you so much for such an amazing opportunity! I am feeling inspired and motivated to share what I have learned during this celebration and to head into the new school year!”*



*“Thank you so much for including us in this event. It was truly special, and I am so inspired by the work of our Teachers of the Year and the Council.”*

*“As usual, the committee and sponsors did a phenomenal job to put together an event to celebrate and uplift our profession. I left feeling energized and inspired for the year ahead.”*



*“Thank you for making that wonderful event happen.  
**It was just what I needed.”***



Kiana Foster-Mauro, 2024 Connecticut Teacher of the Year, at her official announcement ceremony, with Governor Ned Lamont (L) and Commissioner of Education, Charlene Russell-Tucker (L).

## List of Annual Events

**Fall** Official Announcement of the Connecticut Teacher of the Year

Annual Fall Social

Annual Recognition Ceremony

**Winter** CEA Media Training

Meet the Authors Webinar

Mark Twain House and Professional Development

**Spring  
and  
Summer**

Annual Cohort Reunion

Empowered to Lead Symposium

Mohegan Tribe Reception

Mohegan Tribe Professional Development

Mystic Seaport Summer Institute



Members of the 2022 Semifinalist Cohort and Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council participate in a "Meet the Authors" event focusing on teacher leadership with 2012 National Teacher of the Year, Rebecca Mieliwocki, and 2009 California Teacher of the Year, Alex Kajitani.

*"I have greatly appreciated all of the leadership opportunities and professional development opportunities provided to me by the Teacher of the Year Council."*

***My toolbox of teacher leadership skills keeps growing, and I thank the Council for that!"***

*"Thank you for arranging such inspiring, enriching professional development programming for our cohort over the past year. **I appreciate all the Council does to support and celebrate students and teachers!"***

*"I want to thank the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council for a wonderful year of honor and professional learning. I have said repeatedly that **this was the best year of growth I have had professionally in my 28 year career!**"*



Rochelle Brown, an elementary school teacher in Windsor, is the 2021 Connecticut Teacher of the Year.



**Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council**  
**EQUITY STATEMENT**



**The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council recognizes and acknowledges that as a result of historic systemic inequalities, significant disparities in educational opportunities and outcomes exist among students. We believe that public education is the bedrock of a vibrant and just democracy, and we understand that since our nation's founding and to this present day, educational systems and structures have not been designed to serve and benefit all students in the United States equitably. Therefore, as educators, we have an obligation to fundamentally change these inequitable systems.**

**We are committed to creating schools and learning communities characterized by equity and justice so that all students may thrive and benefit from this democratic promise. The circumstances that children are born into should not determine their access to the resources necessary for their success. We recognize that in order to achieve such equity in education, we must understand systems of *inequity*, the roles we have played in maintaining them, and how we can revise, reframe, and re-envision our work to dismantle these systems and support equitable outcomes for all students.**

**As the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council, we affirm our commitment to actions that deconstruct systemic inequity in education. We will collaborate on culturally responsive teaching methods that include a greater awareness of our students' backgrounds and cultures. We will work together to recognize and dismantle our own biases so that we can better support all of our students. We will commit to using our platforms, resources, influence, and voices to fight for inclusive and equitable teaching practices, and will support efforts to diversify the teaching workforce.**

**The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council is an organization dedicated to celebrating teacher excellence, elevating the profession of teaching, developing teacher leaders, and providing opportunities for educators to strengthen their practice and share their talents and expertise with others. Therefore, as we pursue this work, and given our charge as educators, we pledge to focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of our organizational mission and vision.**



## Benefits of Sponsorship

	Platinum \$15,000	Gold \$10,000	Silver \$5,000	Partner \$1000	Friend \$500
Participation in annual Teacher of the Year Selection Process	◆				
Opportunity to Speak at annual Teacher of the Year Ceremony*	◆				
Logo on Ceremony Signage*	◆				
Sponsorship Recognized in Promotional Materials and Stationary	◆	◆			
Logo in Pre-Ceremony Display*	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Ceremony Program Book* Logo or Name, Company Profile	◆ (large logo)	◆ (large logo)	◆ (medium logo)	◆ (small logo)	◆ (name)
Invitation to Annual Fall Social+	◆	◆	◆		
Vendor Table at E2Lead**	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Logo in E2Lead Pre-event Display*	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
E2Lead Program Book** Logo or Name, Company Profile	◆ (large logo)	◆ (large logo)	◆ (large logo)	◆ (medium logo)	◆ (name)
Free registration for up to two organizational representatives to attend E2Lead**	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Website Recognition (cttoy council.org) Logo or Name, Company Profile	◆ (large logo)	◆ (medium logo)	◆ (small logo)	◆ (name)	◆ (name)
<b>Individual and Organizational Supporters (under \$500 will have name(s) listed in Ceremony Program Book, Pre-Ceremony Display, E2Lead Program Book, E2Lead Pre-event Display, and on our website.</b>					

\*The annual ceremony is attended by District Teachers of the Year and families, District Superintendents, the Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education members, elected officials, and other invited guests

\*\*The Empowered to Lead Symposium is attended by District Teachers of the Year, district administrators, and other educational stakeholders.

+The Annual Fall Social is attended by Semifinalists, Council members, and other special guests.

**For more information, contact David Bosso (860-930-6668); [davidbosso@gmail.com](mailto:davidbosso@gmail.com) or Corey Nagle (860-690-0437); [teachercollaborate@gmail.com](mailto:teachercollaborate@gmail.com)**