



Recognizing Passion & Potential:  
Empowerment Through the Teacher of the  
Year Program

Shelly Moody (2011) and Alana Margeson (2012)

# Why Should You Nominate A Teacher?



Honoring the hard work of educators elevates and empowers the profession.

Recognizing schools illuminates the heart of community as the future of citizenry.

Developing stronger teacher leaders cultivates a network of passionate professionals.





Barack Obama





# A Year of Travels and Reflection

- Initial Conference- Dallas; Phoenix
- Washington, D.C. Recognition Week
- Space Camp- Huntsville, AL
- Education Commission of the States- Atlanta, GA
- Princeton, NJ and NYC



# Targeted Professional Development

- Common Core
- Technology
- Policy and Advocacy
- Elevating the Profession
- Global Trends - Singapore, Finland, etc..
- Teacher Leadership
- Educational Reform
- Community-Education Partnerships
- Maine - L.D. 1422 and Proficiency-Based Education

# Professional Opportunities

- Meeting and Speaking to Policy Makers - from Gene Wilhoit to Arne Duncan...Senator Susan Collins to Bill Gates
- Maine ASCD Board Members - Capitol Hill Meetings (Leader to Leader Conference)
- Professional Writing
- National Network of State Teachers of the Year
- Maine Council of English Language Arts
- Pearson: *Why I Teach* and *Five Things I've Learned*

# Meeting with Policy Makers



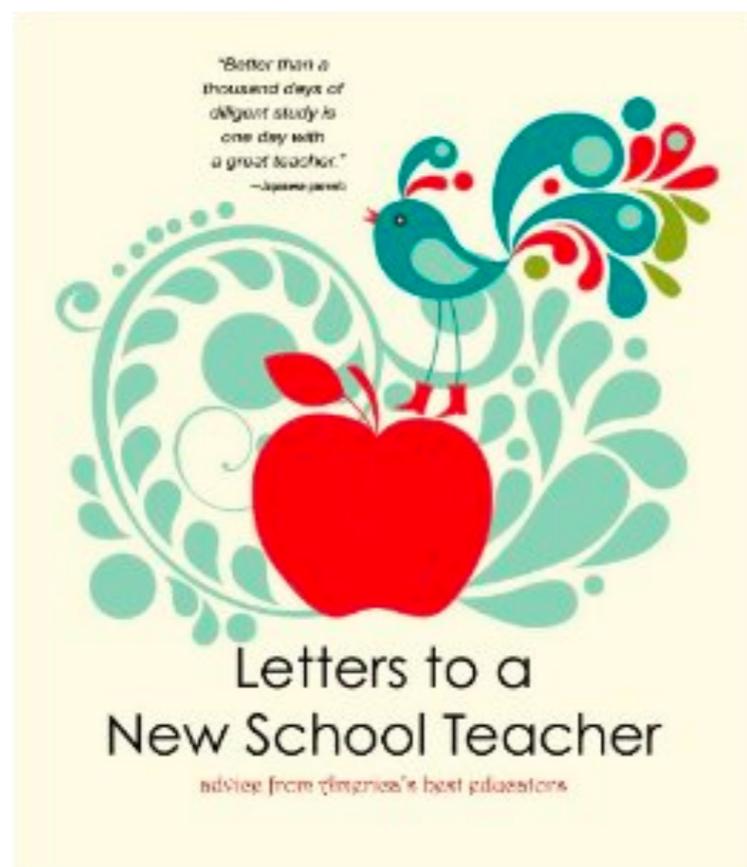
# Other Outcomes

- Collaboration with Sarah Brown Wessling, 2010 NTOY, and *The Teaching Channel*
- University of Phoenix Scholarship
- Walden University Masters/Doctorate
- Requests for Conference Presentations, Peer Review Opportunities
- Professional Networking That Spans all 50 States + (Pauls Irbins, Latvia - Mars One)

# Invite Your Legislator to School Month



# Supporting Preservice Teachers



# A Teacher's Perspective



In-studio guests include Commissioner Bowen, as well as the President of the Maine School Board Association Susan Campbell, and 2011 Maine Teacher of the Year, Shelly Moody.

# A Voice for Maine's Teachers



The Honorable Senator Brian Langley, Representative Tori Kornfield and members of the 127<sup>th</sup> Maine Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

We, the undersigned Maine Teachers of the Year, urge your committee to “stay the course” with proficiency based education and *vote ought not to pass* **LD 579 "An Act To Allow Teachers To Teach and Students To Learn by Amending the Laws Governing Education Standards"**

This bill is inadvisable. This bill dismisses the time, effort and resources educators have committed to designing local curriculum and putting systems in place preparing our students for this transition to a learner-centered instructional system. In 2012 the 126<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature passed the proficiency based graduation law (LD 1422). At that time, teachers across the state welcomed the passage of this law because it meant that finally there was a long-term education plan in place for Maine, a defined path forward for students, educators and parents. In essence, it meant relief because it is difficult to hit an ever-moving target.

Repealing LD 1422 would send a message that decisions are not made based on what is *best for our students*. And that is the lens by which this decision should be made. Proficiency based education is the best path forward for Maine students. Maine should continue implementing the system for many reasons.

First, the goal of proficiency-based education is two-fold: to close the achievement gap in Maine and to close the opportunity gap by holding all students to high expectations connected to Maine's Learning Results. Maine's standards and the current law ensure that regardless of the community in which you live, all of Maine's learners will receive a standards-based education.

Second, a proficiency-based diploma represents K-12 learning. As we build a standards-based model of education, we are creating layers of learning that ultimately guide students to a proficiency-based diploma.

# Opening the Doors of Our Classrooms

## Student-Centered Learning Nine Classrooms in Action



*Edited by*  
**Bill Nave**



# 2015 County Teachers of the Year



# Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teaching and Teachers



Connect, Collaborate, and Celebrate: Developing Teacher Leaders in Maine

*Effective Teaching and Teachers*

Presented by Educate Maine and the Maine Teacher of the Year Association

*August 6th, 11:00 am through August 7th, 4:00 pm*  
*Colby College, Waterville, Maine*

Please join 125 Maine teachers from all counties as we offer training, collaboration, and networking opportunities centered around teacher leadership.

This two-day summit is offered at **no cost to participants and is open to all Maine teachers**. Dorm housing will be provided the evening of August 6th, and we encourage you to stay on the campus. Twelve contact hours will be awarded.

Within every school there is a sleeping giant of teacher leadership, which can be a strong catalyst for making change. By using the energy of teacher leaders as agents of school change, the reform of public education will stand a better chance of building momentum.

~ Katzenmeyer & Moller. (2001) *Awakening the Sleeping Giant*.

# From Research...

A meta-analysis conducted by The Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement found that school culture can facilitate leadership with the following characteristics:

- Encouragement for taking **initiative**.
- An expectation of teamwork and shared responsibility, decision making, and **leadership**.
- Teaching professionals being valued as **role models**.
- Colleagues recognize and respect **teacher leaders** who have subject-area and instructional expertise.
- High trust and **positive working relationships** exist both among teacher peers and with administrators.

**THESE CHARACTERISTICS ARE CULTIVATED IN THE TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM!**

“The beauty of empowering others is that our own power is not diminished in the process.”  
- Barbara Colorose



# The Value of a Nomination



# What can you do?

Qualities of a Great Teacher, According to:  
2015 State Teachers of the Year



 SCHOLASTIC

Results from an online survey of current PreK-12 State Teachers of the Year, conducted in April 2015 by Scholastic with assistance from the Council of Chief State School Officers as part of its National Teacher of the Year program. Forty-six out of 56 State Teachers of the Year responded to the survey.