

Farmington Public Schools Press Release

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**Farmington High School Principal, Dr. Bill Silva, Named CAS  
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**

FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT –DATE April 27, 2018: The Farmington Board of Education and Superintendent Greider are pleased to announce **Farmington High School’s (FHS) Principal, Dr. Bill Silva**, has been named the **2018 Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) High School Principal of the Year**. This recognition is a culmination of a rigorous nomination, application and site visit process. Dr. Silva is truly an extraordinary leader who has collaborated with faculty, staff, students and families to implement purpose-driven and self-directed learning across all subject areas and for all students. Dr. Silva is a collaborator, a strategic and systems thinker and a leader who deeply cares for his students, colleagues, faculty, parents and community. This is exemplified in his strong relationships with all constituencies, his visibility in classrooms and at school and community events and his deep commitment to the success of every student. Dr. Silva’s relationships with the entire school community and his expert instructional leadership skills greatly contribute to the school’s success through a positive school culture of high expectations and belonging.

Dr. Silva is a dynamic and forward thinking leader who has collaborated with his students, faculty, and parents to transform teaching, learning and assessment at Farmington High School aligned with Farmington’s Framework for Teaching and Learning (FTL). The FTL aims to elevate the role of the student in the learning process through highly engaging, authentic, meaningful and real-world learning experiences that focus upon all students acquiring rigorous content knowledge and the thinking and learning skills outlined in Farmington’s Vision of the Graduate (VoG). Students are leaders of their own learning at FHS and participate and contribute to the school’s improvement efforts each day. For many years, Farmington students have joined teachers and administrators on instructional rounds, making recommendations for the school’s next level of improvement work. Students’ participation in rounds is symbolic of the overall shift of the students’ role in the classroom and throughout the school and district.

Dr. Silva has been a key activator of improvement at the classroom, school and district levels in collaboration with all constituencies. As a strategic instructional leader, Dr. Silva has developed systems and routines to support this type of innovation through faculty teaming, instructional rounds, high-quality professional learning and data decision-making so that faculty are truly supported to be innovators, contributors and expert practitioners. He has elevated the entire faculty’s understanding of a growth mindset as well as student-centered curriculum, instruction and assessment best practices through literature, job-embedded professional development, teacher collaboration and teacher-to-teacher coaching.

In collaboration with his students, faculty and school community, Dr. Silva has led improvement efforts that have had a direct and dramatic impact on student achievement by elevating the role of students as leaders of their own learning within a strong and supportive school culture.

Upon learning of his selection, Dr. Silva stated "It is a great honor to be named the 2018 CAS High School Principal of the Year, an award that truly recognizes the accomplishments and efforts of the entire Farmington High School community--faculty and staff, students, and parents--and the Farmington Public Schools. I am proud to represent Farmington High School and to serve this community in achieving our mission of academic excellence for all students."

Farmington Superintendent Kathleen C. Greider states, "Dr. Silva is an outstanding choice for the CAS High School Principal of the Year. At Farmington High School, Dr. Silva creates strong relationships with students, knowing each by name. He places relationships at the center of his work each day. Thus, students feel a bond with Dr. Silva that permeates throughout the school community creating a strong foundation for student

belonging. In addition, Dr. Silva is a visible leader in classrooms, hallways and at sporting and musical events. He is an individual who everyone within the school community can count on. He knows his students and faculty well and they know him. Dr. Silva believes in and lives Farmington's core beliefs —expectations, effort, equity, instruction, relationships and results matter. This is seen in his daily interactions with all members of the school community. Even with high levels of achievement and constituency satisfaction, Dr. Silva motivates and works hand-in-hand with his entire school community to continually improve, innovate and make FHS an exceptional learning environment for all students to meet academic and personal success and live as resourceful, inquiring and contributing global citizens.”

Board Chair Christopher Fagan states, “As a result of Dr. Silva’s efforts in collaboration with his students, faculty, staff and families, Farmington High School consistently achieves at high levels as evidenced by top rankings in U.S. News and World Reports, Newsweek and the Washington Post. This is a critical time for public education in the United States and we must highlight and celebrate those leaders who courageously lead the way in education so that all students become highly educated, thoughtful and ethical leaders of our world community. He is an inspirational leader who is a most worthy recipient of this state recognition.”

### **Biography:**

Dr. Silva has been the Principal of FHS since 2013. Prior to 2013, he served as the Assistant Principal of Lewis S. Mills High School in the Region 10 school district. Dr. Silva also served as a long-time Social Studies teacher, department chair and instructional resource and support teacher in Berlin, Connecticut. He was Berlin’s Teacher of the Year in 1996 and received the prestigious Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award in 1997.

Dr. Silva earned his Ph.D. and Masters’ Degrees in Religious Studies from Yale University and his Bachelor’s Degree in American Studies from Amherst College. In addition, he earned his administrative certification through the Educational Leadership program at the University of Hartford.

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