

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Press Release

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FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ANNOUNCES WWUES PRINCIPAL, ALICIA BOWMAN, NAMED NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR BY CAS AND NAESP



FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT –April 7, 2015: The Farmington Board of Education and Superintendent Kathleen Greider are pleased to announce Alicia Bowman, West Woods Upper Elementary School (WWUES) Principal, as the 2015 Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) and National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) **National Distinguished Principal of the Year**. As a strategic instructional leader, Ms. Bowman has developed systems through faculty teaming, instructional rounds, data decision-making, high-quality instruction in every classroom and tiered interventions. She has elevated the entire faculty’s understanding of efficacy, curriculum, instruction and assessment best practices through literature, high-quality job-embedded professional development, data-decision making, teacher collaboration and elevating student voice as part of the school’s continuous improvement efforts. She has been highlighted, along with her Farmington colleagues, in the book, *School-Based Instructional Rounds* by Lee Teitel for her leadership in developing a cycle of improvement through collaborative classroom observations and analysis to determine the school’s next level of work throughout the school year. Her positive leadership style motivates and encourages risk-taking and innovation among her faculty and students. The school community embraces continuous improvement through her strong expertise and relationships as the leader of this unique school serving grades 5-6.

Alicia Bowman is a unique leader that exemplifies the type of school leadership required in schools across the United States as schools prepare all students for success in the 21st century’s challenging and complex world community. She is a collaborator, a strategic and systems’ thinker and a leader who deeply cares for her students, colleagues, faculty, parents and community. Ms. Bowman places student and adult learning at the center of her work. In turn, she creates a synergy within her school building that has led to the highest levels of achievement, survey results and positive school culture in the history of Farmington’s West Woods Upper Elementary School (WWUES). Her career has proudly been

spent in Farmington as a teacher, teacher leader, Assistant Principal and the current Principal at WWUES. Her strategic and systems' oriented approach has enhanced improvement routines both at WWUES and at the district level. She understands that we all "own" the achievement of all students across schools. Thus, she readily shares the improvement initiatives at WWUES with colleagues both inside and outside the district, mentors new administrators and serves on several critical district level committees to improve teaching, learning and assessment across all grade levels. Ms. Bowman is an exemplar for the future of school leadership in our nation and she will represent Connecticut with great distinction as the CAS and NAESP National Distinguished Principal of the Year for 2015.

Farmington Superintendent Greider states, "Ms. Bowman is a dynamic leader who has collaborated with her students, faculty, and parents to transform teaching and learning at WWUES to align with Farmington Framework for Teaching and Learning (FTL) and Vision of the FPS Graduate (VoG). With this type of teaching and learning model, students develop academic, socially, emotionally and physically in a highly engaging 21st century learning environment. Ms. Bowman has a natural ability to bring both students and adults together in ways that bring out their strengths, passions, leadership and dreams. Ms. Bowman is a gifted leader who will often be found in hallways, classrooms and teacher teaming sessions analyzing planned improvement work and collaboratively deciding upon next steps with both students and teachers. Her students, faculty and parents adore her. She knows her students and faculty well and they know her. Even with high levels of achievement and constituency satisfaction, Ms. Bowman motivates and works hand-in-hand with her entire school community to continually improve, innovate and make WWUES the very best learning environment to develop the whole child, not only in the core academics, but in the arts, life-long wellness, service learning and enrichment that is student-driven. In collaboration with her faculty and school community, Ms. Bowman 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 and a strong and supported school culture. She is a truly inspirational leader who is a most worthy recipient of this national recognition.

Upon learning of her selection, Ms. Bowman stated "I am so honored to be recognized by the Connecticut Association of Schools and the National Association of Elementary School Principals as the lead learner and principal of West Woods Upper Elementary School. This humbling distinction reflects the collective efforts and deep commitment of the entire school community—students, parents, teachers and staff. As the CT and National Elementary Principal of the Year, I am inspired to continue to realize the vision of supporting all students in becoming leaders of their own learning at West Woods, in Farmington and beyond."

Board Chair Mary Grace Reed states, "I have watched Ms. Bowman grow from a first year teacher in Farmington, to an Assistant Principal at WWUES and then to Principal of WWUES. At every step, she was an exceptional example of what makes Farmington such a special place for all members of the school district community to learn and grow together. Her passion, drive, persistence and care for every child have been a beacon of hope and innovation for her students and our entire district. I cannot think of a better choice than Ms. Bowman as the CT and National Distinguished Principal of the Year!

Biography:

Alicia Bowman joined the Farmington Public Schools as a Grade 6 teacher and team leader. She went on to become a math resource teacher and a literacy specialist. Ms. Bowman began her administrative career as the Assistant Principal of West Woods Upper Elementary School in 2008 and in 2010 she was selected to be the Principal of West Woods Upper Elementary School. Ms. Bowman earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Connecticut where she went on to earn her Masters of Arts in Education and Sixth-year diploma in Educational Administration.