

NEWS release



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PERKINS TO HONOR ROCHE, CATALDI, AND SHEEHAN

LANCASTER –The Doctor Franklin Perkins School has announced the 2011 Distinguished Service Awards to be presented at its annual Recognition Day ceremony set for 10 am on Saturday, June 18 under the tent on Manor Lawn, Main Street.

Jeremy Roche, Principal of Nashoba Regional High School, will receive the *2011 Distinguished Service Award in the Field of Education* in recognition of his dedicated service as student-teacher, teacher, coach, and principal at Nashoba. “He has created a school community that emphasizes individual student needs coupled with high expectations for academic success and bright futures,” said Charles P. Conroy, Ed.D., Perkins Executive Director. “His student-centric leadership style has fostered a community of learners that is totally focused on achievement, respect, and, ultimately, success in the wider world.”

Former Clinton High School head football coach, the late Archie W. Cataldi, will be the posthumous recipient of the *2011 Distinguished Service Award in the Field of Education*. His dedication and commitment to education and coaching served as a model for individuals in the field. As a physical education teacher, athletic director, and

coach, Mr. Cataldi truly made an indelible mark on his profession and our community. “We are delighted to have the opportunity to give him the recognition he so richly deserves,” said Conroy.

Also slated to be recognized is James Sheehan, Executive Director of WHEAT, selected as a recipient of the *2011 Distinguished Service Award in the Field of Community Service*. “We are honored to recognize Jim,” noted Kerry Flathers, Director of Organizational Advancement at Perkins and former WHEAT board member. “His commitment to ensuring a compassionate response to all those who call on WHEAT for assistance and his success in securing, developing, and recognizing a team of volunteers, board members and community supporters who help further the mission of WHEAT is outstanding.”

Susan Gala, Special Education Administrator for Ashland Public Schools, has been selected as the recipient of the *2011 Distinguished Service Award in the Field of Special Education*. “Her dedication and commitment to education at all levels and to children with special needs serves as a model for her colleagues in higher education, public and private education, and special education. As a Special Education Teacher and TEAM Chairperson at Ashland, she has truly made a mark on our profession,” states Conroy.

Daniel Eppel, Perkins Health and Wellness Director and competitor in several Iron Man Triathlons, will receive the *2011 Distinguished Service Award for Service to the Students and Residents of Perkins* and is recognized for creating an environment of enthusiasm and zeal for fitness at the School. “He has been an ambassador of good will to the community, orienting, supervising and assisting senior citizens, police officers, firefighters, educators, and community residents who use our facilities. He is a master educator who excels at explaining, teaching, and modeling fitness for his students. Modeling is about “practicing what you preach” and he does both remarkably well, said Conroy.

The Recognition Day ceremony is held each year to honor the accomplishments of Perkins students during the past academic year and recognize individuals who have made contributions in the fields of education, special education, community and public service, and service to the students and residents of Perkins. For additional information about Perkins or the Recognition Day ceremony, please contact Kerry Flathers at 978-368-6449 or kflathers@perkinschool.org.

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