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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!**

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## LOCAL MIDDLE LEVEL STUDENTS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ students at \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, RI, were recently honored Middle Level Scholar Leaders at a Banquet on May 19, 2009 at the West Valley Inn, West Warwick, RI. The students were presented with an award. The criteria included demonstrating academic initiative and scholarship, providing service to classmates and school, exemplifying positive attitudes and demonstrating leadership in the classroom and school activities.

Over 270 students, educators, and parents attended this Banquet to celebrate the achievements of the middle level students who are representative of the many fine young adolescents in all middle level schools in the State of Rhode Island. 54 eighth grade students from 27 schools were honored at the Tenth Annual Middle Level Scholar Leader Awards Banquet. The Keynote Speakers at the Banquet were Scholar Leader Award recipients Nick Ramzi from North Cumberland Middle School in Cumberland, RI and Chitanya Gopu from Curtis Corner Middle School in Wakefield, RI. Michele Humbyrd, RIMLE President; William Fasano, RIMLE Executive Director; Robert Spear, NELMS Executive Director; Roy Seitsinger from the RI Office of Middle and High School Reform; Joseph Militello, NELMS Board Member; and Justice Robert E. Flanders spoke at the Banquet.

The event was organized by the Rhode Island Middle Level Educators (RIMLE) and the New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) with a supporting sponsorship from Lifetouch National School Studios.

Congressman Jim Langevin and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse provided official citations to each student at this year's event.

# **RHODE ISLAND**

## **MIDDLE LEVEL SCHOOLS SCHOLAR LEADER AWARDS PROGRAM**

### **2009 Selection Criteria**

All decisions concerning selection have a certain subjective element. However, the Rhode Island Middle Level Educators and the New England League of Middle Schools urge schools to follow the recommended criteria described below. Procedures for selection used at the school must be fair, non-discriminatory, and consistently applied.

It is suggested that two students, one male and one female be selected from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade (unless the school has all female or male students). Seventh grade student recipients are appropriate if that is the highest grade in your school.

The following criteria are suggested:

- Excellent attitude towards learning
- Provides service to classmates and school
- Is a positive role model for peers
- Takes responsibility for own behavior and learning

These additional indicators may be of assistance:

- ✓ Exercises influence on peers in upholding school ideals
- ✓ Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
- ✓ Shows leadership in group situations
- ✓ Shows respect for self and others
- ✓ Exemplifies positive attitudes and inspires positive behavior in others
- ✓ Demonstrates academic initiative and is willing to uphold scholarship
- ✓ Demonstrates leadership in the classroom and school activities
- ✓ Is dependable in any responsibility undertaken
- ✓ Volunteers and is gladly available and willing to sacrifice to offer assistance to others
- ✓ Accepts criticism willingly and recommendations graciously
- ✓ Exemplifies desirable qualities of character and integrity