



News from RIEMA

RHODE ISLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RHODE ISLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINS THE FIRST ANNUAL STEP AWARD FROM FEMA

Senator Jack Reed will present the award Monday, May 18 at 1:00 PM to the Teachers and their students at Marieville Elementary School, Mineral Spring Ave. in North Providence..” Rhode Island has the highest percentage of eligible students enrolled in the STEP Program in New England” stated Director J.David Smith. “This certainly bodes well for the future state of preparedness in our State. This program for the first time brings parents and children together in being prepared for most emergency situations they will face. STEP will definitely save lives in the future.”

COPY OF MEMO FROM FEMA

SUBJECT: ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTEE FOR THE 2009 STEP RECOGNITION AWARD

1. I am pleased to announce the selection of three teachers at Marieville Elementary School as FEMA Region 1’s selectees for the 2009 Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) Recognition Award.
2. The selection of Erin La Fauci, Darlene Chabot and Mary Di Filippo was based on their dedication that went above and beyond what was required of them, and whose work epitomized the goals of the STEP program through action. Nominations were accepted from December 2008 to March 2009

were all carefully reviewed by a selection board, then finally selected through a point system.

3. During the pilot year, Ms. La Fauci, Ms. Chabot and Ms. Di Filippo enthusiastically embraced and integrated STEP as part of their science curriculum; they volunteered to participate in STEP's evaluation program by providing testimonials that will be used to improve the program for years to come. Most remarkably, their students took to this program which is in large part due to their enthusiasm for the program.

4. Finally, STEP has been adopted and implemented at six additional elementary schools and became part of their fourth grade curriculum. The feedback these teachers provided assisted in implementing the STEP program in neighboring communities.

5. Please join me in congratulating Erin La Fauci, Darlene Chabot, and Mary Di Filippo on their selection for the 2009 STEP Recognition Award.

/s/

W. Russ Webster
Federal Preparedness

Coordinator

FEMA, Region 1