

Press Release
January 20, 2022



Dr. Andrew D. Deacon is the recipient of the Connecticut Reading Association's (CRA) Outstanding Administrator Literacy Award. The award recognizes an administrator who effectively motivates, inspires, and supports others in the promotion of literacy. The recipient upholds equity in their work by actively working to remove barriers to academic success through administrative efforts. Dr. Deacon was nominated for this honor by his colleague, Dawn Pollutro, a literacy coach at Forbes School.

Dr. Deacon is the Director of Intervention & Academic Support K-5 for the Torrington Public Schools. In this role, Dr. Deacon is committed to improving all aspects of curriculum and instruction. He works intensely with the district's elementary instructional coaches and interventionists to continuously improve teaching and learning at all tiers. Most recently, Dr. Deacon has led efforts to shift literacy instruction to the science of reading in order to improve outcomes for all students. Although educated using a whole language approach as a child, Dr. Deacon has embraced the power of the science of reading and the positive impact it will have on growing proficient readers and writers.

Previously, Dr. Deacon has served on a variety of committees and organizations across the state. In 2014, Dr. Deacon created standards-aligned ELA curriculum materials as a LearnZillion Dream Team member. He has also served on the Connecticut State Department of Education's K-2 Writing Assessments Committee and the K-8 ELA Curriculum Leadership Team. Furthermore, Dr. Deacon has served on the board of directors for the Connecticut Association for Reading Research for the past three years.

Dr. Deacon holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in art history from Manhattanville College, a Master of Science in Elementary Education degree, and a Certificate of Advanced Study in remedial reading and language arts, both from the University of Bridgeport. In May 2021, Dr. Deacon was awarded his doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Bridgeport. His dissertation research focused on elementary school administrators' perspectives on the integration of LGBTQ-themed literature in elementary literacy instruction. He has presented nationally on his research and the subject of social justice in literacy education.

In addition to this award, Dr. Deacon was awarded previously the Lydia A. Duggins Award for excellence in literacy education and the Lauren Rousseau Passionate Educator Award in the memory of this educator who tragically lost her life in the Sandy Hook Massacre. Furthermore, Dr. Deacon was named the 2017 Torrington Teacher of the Year and a semifinalist for Connecticut Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Deacon believes firmly that there is no greater reward in education than knowing your students are empowered to make a change in the world.

As a recipient of the award, Dr. Deacon will receive a \$500 grant to be used to support literacy efforts in his school district and complimentary CRA conference registration. The Connecticut Reading Association, Inc. is a professional literacy organization. Membership is open to all educators, classroom teachers, reading specialists, administrators, paraprofessionals, college/university professors and students, and anyone interested in promoting literacy. The mission of CRA is to empower educators, inspire students, and encourage our community to embrace literacy as an essential tool for lifelong success.