



Dear Neighbors,

In a surprise ceremony earlier this week at the Lillian Feinstein @ Sackett Elementary School, I had the pleasure of being the first person to congratulate one of our most talented and hardworking educators in the city – Yanaiza Gallant, a reading intervention specialist at the school – on receiving the prestigious Milken Educator Award.

The \$25,000 award honors exceptional educators across the nation for their work. Each recipient receives the award in a surprise ceremony. Educators do not apply for the award, nor are they aware that they have been nominated for the honor.

Mrs. Gallant is one of 40 educators around the country who will receive a Milken Family Foundation 2012 Milken Educator Award this fall. The recognition places her among the best educators we have not only in our city, or the state of Rhode Island, but the nation.

Mrs. Gallant has taught in the Providence Public Schools for nine years, including stints as a bilingual teacher in grades 4 and 5 at the Alfred A. Lima Elementary School and as a reading coach at the Edmund Flynn Elementary School. She started working at the Lillian Feinstein @ Sackett Elementary as a reading intervention specialist last year.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Gallant has been described as an incredible leader, offering an unflinching energy and contagious enthusiasm to every student, every parent, and every person she meets. Her passion for education inspires not only her students, but also her colleagues.

Mrs. Gallant credits her education in the Providence Public Schools, when she attended Roger Williams Middle School and graduated from Mount Pleasant High School, with motivating her to become the devoted and skilled educator she is today. Her recognition is a celebration of all of our teachers and administrators in Providence.

As a graduate of the Providence Public Schools, I know first-hand the importance of excellent teachers who inspire their students to love learning and to succeed in school. I would like to thank the Milken Family Foundation for honoring Yanaiza Gallant with this prestigious award and for recognizing some of the great work going on every day in our Providence Schools.

I hope you will join me in congratulating Mrs. Gallant and all of our leaders for their work to equip our students with the skills and confidence they need to compete in tomorrow's economy.

Sincerely,

Angel Taveras
Mayor