

GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Greenwich, CT

Contact:
Kim Eves, Director of Communications
Kim_eves@greenwich.k12.ct.us 203-625-7415
@EvesGPSCOMM

For Immediate Release

GPS Media and Technology Coordinator Honored with State Award

Greenwich, CT - Friday, March 27, 2015 – Greenwich Public Schools' (GPS) Media and Technology Program Coordinator Frances (Fran) Kompar has been selected to receive the 2015 Hilda and John Jay Award by the Connecticut Association of School Librarians (CASL). The award is presented to a CASL member who has made an extensive contribution to the library media profession.

GPS Chief Information Officer Phil Dunn said, "Fran has made significant contributions to the Library Sciences and has served as a meaningful resource for information on digital literacy throughout the state. Her work is not only widely respected, but it is inspirational."

Ms. Kompar is being recognized for her work in the Greenwich Public Schools as well as with Cooperative Educational Services (CES), and Area Cooperative Services (ACES) to facilitate a transformational professional learning and support program for *Re-Imagining the School Library into a Learning Commons* and her continued efforts to educate future Library Media Specialists.

In his letter of recommendation to CASL on Ms. Kompar's behalf, David V. Loertscher, San Jose State University Professor in Library and Information Science said, "Fran has developed one of the most ambitious projects in the U.S. to bring school libraries into the center of teaching and learning through her professional development program with 20 school districts in CT that concentrate on the development of learning commons. What is exemplary about her efforts is that she not only involves the teacher librarians of the area, but superintendents, principals, and instructional coaches are involved in the redesign of traditional school library practices. Thus, her focus is not, If WE build it, they will come; but, If THEY build it, they will use it! This is a very powerful strategy and not only unusual for normal [professional development] in our field, but likely to make a significant impact."

Dr. Loertscher continues, "New excitement, a fresh approach, and the prospect of involvement to push sustainability, are all hallmarks of exemplary work worthy of your consideration as the best of the best that is happening in your state....I salute the work, and recommend [Fran] to [the CASL Awards Committee] as an outstanding professional who is making a difference."

Ms. Kompar will be honored with the Hilda and John Jay Award at CASL's annual Spring Fling in Milford on April 30, 2015.

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Bio Brief: Fran Kompar



Ms. Kompar has worked for the Greenwich Public Schools for twenty-three years, serving the Library Media & Technology program. She has led the Library Media & Technology program as Program Coordinator since 2004 and more recently has also worked as an Educational Consultant for the Fairfield County RESC, Cooperative Educational Services (C.E.S.). She has taught, served on the Board of Directors, and developed curriculum for the Alternate Route to Certification for Library Media Specialists, delivered through A.C.E.S. In each of these roles, she has advocated for the importance of exemplary, well-staffed, resourced library media programs that focus on encouraging students to imagine, be curious, think and create new meaning.

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