(For immediate release: Greenwich, CT – Thursday, March 11, 2010) Mr. Anthony Mullen – 2009 National Teacher of the Year, 2009 Connecticut State Teacher of the Year, and Greenwich’s own 2008 Distinguished Teacher – will be the Commencement Speaker for the Greenwich High School graduating Class of 2010. The ceremony will be held in June 2010, the specific date will be announced in April 2010.

Greenwich High School student and President of the Class of 2010 commented on selecting Mr. Mullen as the Commencement Speaker, “From the start, Mr. Mullen was a logical pick. Not many schools can say that they had the national teacher of the year speak at their graduation. He has a strong connection to Greenwich High School and the Greenwich community and all involved felt he would give a relevant and inspiring address. We are extremely glad that Mr. Mullen is able to speak at the graduation ceremony and look forward to hearing the wonderful address we are sure he will give.”

Mr. Mullen is a teacher at the Arch School, an alternative education program for Greenwich High School students. Throughout the 2009-10 school year, Mr. Mullen has represented the Nation, the State of Connecticut and Greenwich as a full time international spokesman and, in his words, has “been given an amazing opportunity to promote the teaching profession and to speak on behalf of children who are too often marginalized because of emotional or learning disabilities.” He speaks at public schools, universities, and State, National and International education conferences on what he describes as his three pillars of success as a teacher – “passion, professionalism and perseverance.” He has spoken before the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and in January 2010, to over 1000 education ministers representing more than 80% of the world’s population at the Learning and Technology World Forum in London, England. He wrote the forward to and helped to coordinate the entries for the recently published book, Chicken Soup for the Soul: Teacher Tales. He is working on two more books, one on his journey as a Teacher of the Year and another for parents on navigating the education system.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Sidney A. Freund said, “Tony has been an inspiration to educators and students around the world. He returns to Greenwich next year with a wealth of experience and best practices gathered from all parts of the globe. We could not be more proud and could not think of a more fitting commencement speaker for the graduating Class of 2010.”

“Setting the Standard for Excellence in Public Education”

www.greenwichschools.org
Bio Brief: Anthony Mullen

Mr. Mullen came to the Greenwich Public Schools in 2003, a retired New York City Police officer, eager to teach the students at Arch School. He is skilled at identifying the needs of each individual student and developing curriculum and instructional approaches to best meet their needs. His dedication to supporting youth extends well beyond the standard school day. Mr. Mullen developed and administered the District’s ACE Program – an after school program that provides academic support for students who have been expelled from Greenwich High School. The program provides a second chance for students who want to continue their education and receive a high school diploma. He is a State Certified new teacher and BEST Portfolio Mentor – he mentored a new teacher whose BEST Portfolio became the 2008 model portfolio for Connecticut Special Education teachers. He also is the volunteer Director of the Town of Somers Baseball League – a program that promotes sportsmanship and athleticism to over 700 children. Mr. Mullen was selected as one of the six 2008 Distinguished Teachers by the Distinguished Teachers Awards Committee, Inc., a nonprofit organization established to recognize and celebrate excellence among the dedicated teaching staff of the Greenwich Public Schools. He was subsequently selected to represent Greenwich in the State’s program where he was ultimately selected as the 2009 Connecticut Teacher of the Year. In May 2009, President Barack Obama announced that Mr. Mullen had been selected to represent the Nation as the 2009 National Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Mullen received his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Studies from Long Island University, Old Brookfield, NY; and an M.S. in Elementary Education and an M.S. in Special Education, both from Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.

For more information, please contact:
Ms. Diane Chiapetta-Fox,
Director of Student Activities, Greenwich High School
203-625-8047 or diane_chiapetta_fox@greenwich.k12.ct.us

“Setting the Standard for Excellence in Public Education”
www.greenwichschools.org