

PRESS RELEASE
from the Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association
(RISSA)

Philip Auger, Superintendent in North Kingstown, Selected as 2019 Rhode Island Superintendent of the Year

Philip Auger, Ph. D., Superintendent of the North Kingstown Public Schools, has been chosen as the 2019 Rhode Island Superintendent of the Year. His selection by the Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association (RISSA) was announced at its General Membership Meeting on August 16, 2018. The ovation accorded to Dr. Auger by his colleagues was an indication of the high esteem in which he is held.

The award recognizes outstanding achievement in school district leadership, dedication to the education of all children, commitment to the community, and service to RISSA. The award was presented to Phil by Karen Tarasevich, Superintendent of the West Warwick Schools and the 2018 Superintendent of the Year.

In addition to his fellow administrators, Rhode Island Education Commissioner Ken Wagner, Phil's wife Kristin and son James and were in attendance.

Dr. Auger has served as the Superintendent in North Kingstown since 2011. He previously served as the assistant superintendent for North Kingstown from 2009-2011. He also served as an administrator for Chariho Regional School District. Prior to that he taught in Attleboro and also served as an Instructor with the BOOST program at the Newport Naval base.

During his tenure as Superintendent, North Kingstown has had two Elementary Schools earn Blue Ribbon status, Stony Lane Elementary in 2013 and Fishing Cove Elementary in 2017. In those years North Kingstown has been recognized by RIDE a number of "leading," and "commended" schools and for making significant gains in district wide achievement for six years in a row with Quidnessett Elementary and Fishing Cove Elementary showing some of the greatest gains in that time.

Dr. Auger cites the work of the great principals, teachers, and staff of these schools who have made a major commitment to professional development. Quidnessett staff have been cited by Gems-Net in their most recent promotional video as a model school for science instruction, and Fishing Cove was honored by Commissioner Wagner for being the highest performing school in Rhode Island for its grade 4 2016 NECAP science scores. Also during this time, North Kingstown High School has received Silver recognition from US News and World Report for its rigorous curriculum and has made major advancements to its offerings, adding four Career and Tech programs.

In NKSD, a significant goal for the School Committee, superintendent, all principals, and all elementary and middle school teachers is to meet increasing year-by-year growth goals based on STAR testing. With Dr. Auger's leadership all NKSD schools, including

its highest poverty schools, have met or exceeded these ambitious growth targets in each of the past three years. These growth results also take form at North Kingstown High School where the school has regularly met its targets for increasing the number of students engaged in advanced coursework.

Dr. Auger is “especially proud of the rich extracurricular community in North Kingstown with state and nationally recognized programs in music, athletics, and theater.”

Dr. Auger has represented RISSA as a member of the national AASA Governing Board since 2016. He has also served as a member of the RISSA Executive Committee and in this past year the Governor’s Working Group on Gun Safety and a RI House of Representative Commission on School Start Times.

Dr. Auger received earned his Bachelor and Master’s degrees at Providence College and earned a Ph. D. from the University of Rhode Island.

Phil and his wife Kristin reside in North Kingstown. The have two children, James and Emily, both North Kingstown High School graduates.

Dr. Auger will be honored by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) at its National Conference on Education to be held in in Los Angeles, Ca. February, 2019.

Contact Information:

Dr. Thomas DiPaola
Executive Director
Rhode Island School Administrators Association
tdipaolarissa@gmail.com