



Courtesy photo
David Prouty High School teacher Mary McLaughlin recently earned a Mass Insight Education Partners in Excellence Teacher Award.

DPHS teacher earns prestigious award

'A POSITIVE FOR PROUTY
AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'

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SPENCER — Teachers never ask for praise and are seldom acknowledged individually, which makes it especially meaningful when educators like David Prouty High School's Mary McLaughlin receive commenda-

tion.

McLaughlin was recently honored with the Mass Insight Education Partners in Excellence Teacher Award. Given to only 52 educators statewide, the award represents the top tier of teachers in the Bay State who go above and beyond to inspire

their students.

"I was very surprised about the award. Even though the award is, in essence, for doing my job, it is nice to know that all of the hard work and effort does not go unnoticed," said McLaughlin,

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who has been teaching at DPHS since 2000. "I am also happy that this is a positive for Prouty and the school district. The public should be aware of all the wonderful things that happen in this district."

McLaughlin teaches AP environmental science, biology I, biology II, and forensic science. In the past, she has also instructed courses in microbiology and earth science, helping to usher in the STEM wave that is now flourishing at Prouty.

In addition to her leadership in the classroom, McLaughlin also serves as the DPHS Student Council advisor, the Envirothon Team coach, and an advisor for the class of 2018. Moreover, she even runs the shot clock at boys' home basketball games. Throughout her career she has remained committed to showing her support to students in all aspects of their high school experience.

"My favorite part about education is seeing students acquire or hone interests, especially in the sciences, as they expand their knowledge, mature and develop into productive members of the com-

munity," McLaughlin told the New Leader.

McLaughlin is particularly impressed each year by the dedication of her AP students. In her AP environmental science course, students learn about the world through hands-on laboratory investigations, explorations and observations. Thanks to McLaughlin's engaging teaching style, students are also able to identify both human-made and natural environmental problems occurring in their local ecosystem.

McLaughlin also supports students advancing their education by getting involved in events like Envirothon.

"The students are motivated and dedicated. In addition to the regular schedule at Prouty, the students attend four Saturday sessions, one of which is a mock exam preparing them for the AP exam in May," McLaughlin said. "All of the students in the last class opted to become members of the David Prouty Envirothon Team and compete at the Massachusetts Envirothon Competition. This meant more time interviewing residents, researching the current issue topic, and attending the Envirothon. I could not be more proud of these students."

DPHS students have thrived under McLaughlin's leader-

ship, with 75 percent of AP exam takers scoring a 3 or better last year. The national average is only about 35 percent, and DPHS leaders are thrilled with the work McLaughlin and her colleagues have done.

"I am very proud of her — she is an excellent teacher and a key player in making this school great," said DPHS Principal Elizabeth York. "There aren't enough words to describe her commitment to this school."

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