



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

To: Members of the State Board of Education
From: Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools
Date: January 24, 2023
Subject: Recognition of the 2023 Maryland Teacher of the Year Berol Dewdney

Purpose

The State Board of Education (SBOE) and State Superintendent of Schools Mohammed Choudhury will recognize Berol Dewdney, who has been selected as 2023 Maryland Teacher of the Year. Ms. Dewdney is a pre-kindergarten teacher at Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle School in the Baltimore City Public Schools System.

Background/Historical Perspective

Maryland has fully participated in the National Teacher of the Year Program for thirty-two years. The objective of both the national and State programs is to draw public attention to the teaching profession and the contributions of our outstanding teachers. The Maryland Teacher of the Year serves as a speaker and advisor and represents thousands of teachers in our public schools. The Maryland State Teacher of the Year is also entered in the National Teacher of the Year competition.

Executive Summary

The Maryland Teacher of the Year program is sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Education along with McDonalds® Family Restaurants of Baltimore, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Maryland Public Television, NTA Life/a Horace Mann Company, the Whiting Turner Contracting Company, the Baltimore Sun, Bank of America, Maryland State Education Association, and WJZ-13. Ms. Dewdney will provide remarks at numerous professional development programs, award ceremonies, state conferences, college graduations, and other programs and events.

Action

No action is required; this information is for information only.

Attachments

Biography of 2023 Maryland Teacher of the Year Berol Dewdney

Berol Dewdney

2023 Maryland State Teacher of the Year



Berol Dewdney, an educator for 10 years with Baltimore City Public Schools, teaches Pre-kindergarten at Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle School. In 2022, she was named the Baltimore City Public Schools Teacher of the Year and Maryland State Teacher of the Year. Berol believes education should be rooted in love and the neuroscience of brain development. There is nothing she believes in more than the unstoppable power and revolutionary leadership of America's students and educators.

Commodore is part of the 100% Project, a school turnaround network that supports high-need schools in Baltimore City. The 100% Project prioritizes a student-centered mindset and collaborative practice among educators and administrators. Within the 100% Project network, Berol serves as the Early Childhood Program lead, professional development fellow, and instructional coach.

She is a certified Tools of the Mind Coach and a Model Teacher in Baltimore City, the district's highest designation of effective teaching. As a leader, Berol has pioneered implementation of the research-backed Tools of the Mind curriculum. Through this effort, she has supported 25 district classrooms, encompassing 60 educators, and more than 500 students. This play-based curriculum fuels cognitive, social, and emotional growth to ensure all learners reach their highest potential at the critical earliest stages of their school journey. Berol has raised

\$500,000 to support program implementation and serves as a public advocate and policy advisor for brain-based teaching and educational equity at the state and national level. Berol also serves as a kindergarten readiness consultant and is a Kennedy Leadership Award for Excellence in Teaching award winner.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts from Colby College and her Master's in Education Studies from Johns Hopkins University.