



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

For Immediate Release

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Contact: [Shaheed M. Morris](#)

(609) 376-9072

Podcast Honors 2020-2021 State Teacher of the Year and Teacher Leader Endorsement Recipients

Trenton, NJ – In its “DOE Digest” podcast scheduled to be released on Thursday, April 15, 2021, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will highlight its 2021 State Teacher of the Year as well as teachers who are in the first cohort to have received the NJDOE’s Teacher Leader Endorsement.

“New Jersey educators are leading in their classrooms, schools, and communities in diverse ways,” said Kenneth Bond, Acting Director of the NJDOE’s Office of the Professional Learning Network and program moderator. “Teacher recognition programs and teacher leader endorsement programs are important ways to recognize teachers leading the way for New Jersey. It was inspiring to hear from teachers in New Jersey about the implications of these programs in their specific contexts.”

Angel Santiago, who was named the 2020-21 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year, is one of the guests on the podcast and discusses his experience as State Teacher of The Year as well as the various recognition programs for teachers in New Jersey.

“Teachers leading with an equality lens means loving the student as complete students. Knowing your students and knowing where they come from,” said Santiago, a fifth-grade teacher in Gloucester Township in Camden County. “An equitable education system for all students is extremely important for our students.”

Other guests on the podcast included Justin Saxon, a middle school special education teacher in Northern Valley Regional High School in Bergen County; Mary Bozenmayer, an eighth-grade physical science program teacher in West Milford Township in Passaic County; and Syreeta Primas, a first-grade teacher in Pleasantville in Atlantic County.

To receive a Teacher Leader Endorsement, candidates must complete an accredited approved program of study aligned to the Teacher Leader Model Standards. Those standards address a wide range of topics, including coaching techniques and analyzing standardized tests.

Visit the [DOE Digest](#) to tune in to the April podcast on the Teacher Leader Endorsement program. The DOE Digest podcast with transcripts is also available on the [NJDOE’s website](#).

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