

Continuing the Vision:

*C*ultivating

*C*aring

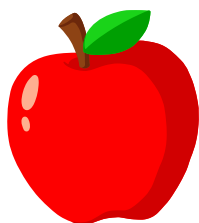
*C*ommitted

And

*C*ompetent *T*eachers

Westchester Recognition Journal

June 16, 2026



The United Federation
of Teachers

salutes

Today's Students
Tomorrow's Teachers

on its

2026 Annual Recognition Event
***Continuing the Vision: Cultivating, Caring,
Committed, and Competent Teachers***

Congratulations to the 2026 honorees!

We join in celebrating TSTT's mission
to recruit, mentor and train culturally
diverse and economically challenged
students from high school through college
and place them as effective teachers
and committed leaders who strengthen
schools and communities.



United Federation of Teachers
A Union of Professionals

Michael Mulgrew, President
52 Broadway, New York, NY 10004
www.uft.org

Westchester Regional Recognition Journal

Continuing The Vision

Cultivating, Caring Committed and Competent Teachers



Greetings to our TSTT Family and Supporters,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that we welcome you today on this momentous occasion
Continuing the Vision: Cultivating, Caring, Committed and Competent Teachers!



Today, we recognize our organizations's history but also a powerful reaffirmation of our mission to diversify and strengthen the teacher workforce-arguably the backbone of our nation's future and global competitiveness. Since 1995, TSTT has recruited, mentored and trained nearly 1,700 culturally diverse and economically challenged students to become caring, committed, and competent educators. More than 350 of them are now making a difference in classrooms across the country.

At a time when our public education system faces unprecedented challenges-ranging from teacher shortages to declining academic performance- TSTT remains a beacon of hope. Our adaptable, proven mentoring model, praised by the U.S. Department of Education and national teachers' unions, continues to deliver extraordinary outcomes:

- **97% High School Graduation Rate**
- **96% College Admission Rate**
- **85% College Graduation Rate**
- **100% Teacher Placement Rate**
- **90% five-year teacher retention rate-far exceeding the national average of 50%**

As we celebrate accomplishments today, we are equally focused on the future. Today, we honor our graduating seniors who are the next generation of aspiring teachers, as well as recognize educators reaching their 3-, 5-and 10-year milestones. We salute our school districts and school partners for their unwavering support. We also commemorate the awarding of two recipients of the **2026 Lois T. Bronz Scholarship**, which supports promising young men on their path to become educators.

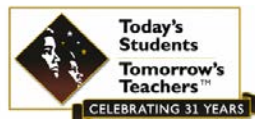
We extend our sincere thanks to our **Title Sponsors, United Federation of Teachers, Morgan Stanley and M&T Bank**, as well as all our supporters, for their unwavering dedication and commitment to TSTT.

TSTT'S 30-year legacy is not just a celebration, it's a call to action. Together, with your continued support, we can expand our reach and inspire even more students to enter the noble profession pf teaching, ensuring every child has access to an excellent, representative, and compassionate educators.

Today we celebrate your region, reflecting on all we've accomplished-while looking ahead to the bright future we are building together.

Bettye H. Perkins, Ed. D.
President and CEO

Clarence G. Williams
TSTT Board Chair



Continuing The Vision
Cultivating, Caring Committed and Competent Teachers
Keynote Speaker



Emerly A. Martinez
Principal - White Plains H.S.

Emerly A. Martinez is the Principal of White Plains High School and a proud graduate of Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers (TSTT). In 2000, he became the first graduate of the organization, from Ossining High School, beginning a remarkable educational journey that has led to a 26-year career dedicated to serving students and communities.

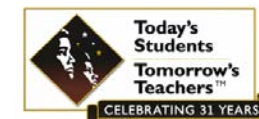
A native of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Martinez immigrated to the United States with his family at the age of five. Raised with an appreciation for hard work, perseverance, and the transformative power of education, he benefited from the support of educators and mentors who helped shape his future. Those experiences inspired him to pursue a career in education and ultimately return that same support to future generations of students.

Mr. Martinez earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Mercy University, a Master of Science in Education from Lehman College, and a second Master of Science in Educational Leadership from The College of Saint Rose. He began his career as a social studies teacher and has since served as a Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, and Principal.

Today, Mr. Martinez leads White Plains High School, one of New York's largest and most diverse high schools. Throughout his tenure, he has championed initiatives that expand opportunities for students, including dual enrollment programs, career exploration experiences, internships, enhanced special education services, and partnerships with colleges, businesses, and community organizations. He is widely recognized for his collaborative leadership style, commitment to educational equity, and focus on creating school environments where every student can thrive.

In addition to his role as principal, Mr. Martinez serves as Co-President of the Southern Westchester Principals Association and Co-Facilitator of the Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES Secondary Principals Group. His career stands as a testament to the mission of Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers and the profound impact that mentorship, opportunity, and education can have on a young person's life.

As the first graduate of TSTT, Mr. Martinez is honored to return and celebrate the accomplishments of this year's students, who represent the next generation of educators, leaders, and changemakers.



Continuing The Vision
Cultivating, Caring Committed and Competent Teachers
Regional Recognition Program

Welcome

Mikayla Walters

Westchester Regional Program Manager

Greetings

Lawrence Ault, TSTT Board Treasurer

Introduction

Ms. Jessica Reader, Regional Program Consultant

Opening Remarks

Dr. Bettye Perkins, TSTT President & CEO

Introduction

Ms. Kristina Brown, TSTT Alum

Keynote Address

Emerly A. Martinez

Principal - White Plains H.S.

Lois T. Bronz Scholarship

Francine Shorts, The daughter of Lois Bronz

Awards and Recognition

High School, Middle School, & Teacher Mentors

Program Reflections

Natacha Robert, TSTT Alum

Closing Remarks

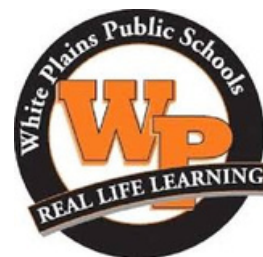
Rosie Samudio, Program Director

Westchester Regional Recognition Journal

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School District Partners



ARLINGTON CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT



Westchester Regional Recognition Journal

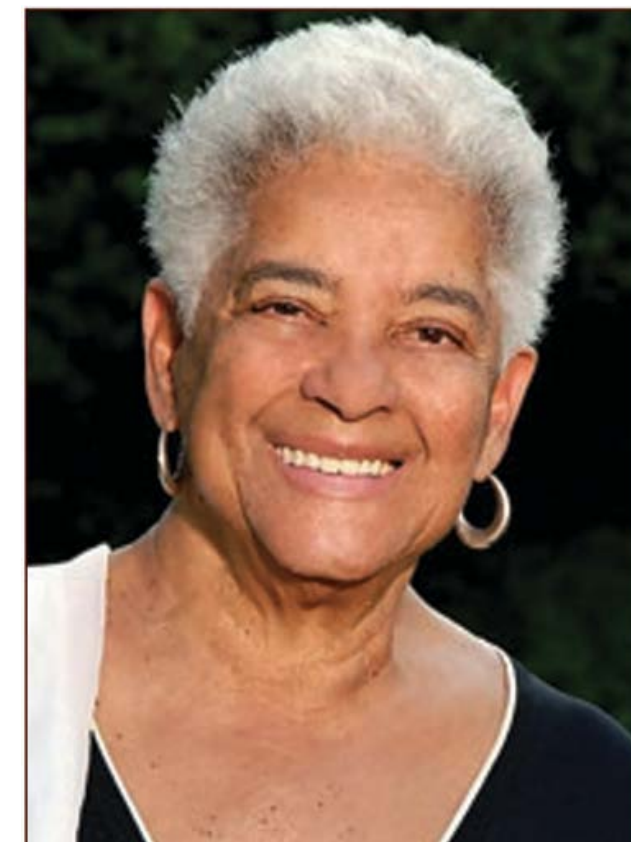
Continuing The Vision
Cultivating, Caring Committed and Competent Teachers



2026 Lois T. Bronz Scholarship

The Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers (TSTT) Lois T. Bronz Scholarship Fund was created in 2018 to commemorate her legacy. This award will enable a deserving male high school senior in the TSTT program to support their journey on to college to become an educator.

Lois Bronz had a long career as an educator, math teacher, at every level from K-12 through College/University. Lois had a long career in civic activism and politics. Elected to the Greenburgh Town Board in 1976, she went on to become the first African American Woman elected to the Westchester County Board of Legislators in 1993. Later elected as chair in 2002, she then served on the Board until 2009.



**2026 Lois T. Bronz
Scholarship Recipient:**

Azon Laurel



Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School

Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers proudly recognizes Azon Laurel as a recipient of the 2026 Lois Bronz Scholarship. Established in honor of Lois Bronz—a dedicated educator, advocate, and champion of educational opportunity—this scholarship celebrates students who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership, integrity, and a commitment to the transformative power of education.

Azon is an outstanding student leader, scholar, and community servant whose achievements reflect the values of this prestigious award. A graduating senior at Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School, he serves as President of the Student Government Association and is actively involved in My Brother's Keeper, Senior Band, and numerous community service initiatives.

Committed to serving others, Azon has completed more than 1,000 hours of volunteer service, including his work as a volunteer firefighter with the Mountaindale Fire Department. He has earned both his high school diploma and an associate degree while maintaining a strong academic record. Through his leadership, dedication, and pursuit of educational excellence, Azon exemplifies the spirit of service and lifelong learning that the Lois Bronz Scholarship was created to honor.

This fall, Azon will attend Syracuse University to study International Relations, with plans to pursue a career in public service. Known for his leadership, integrity, respect for others, and determination, he continues to inspire those around him and serves as a powerful example of the positive impact education can have on individuals and communities.

Congratulations, Azon, on this well-deserved honor. We celebrate your accomplishments and look forward to the contributions you will make as a future leader committed to service, education, and the greater good.

**2026 Lois T. Bronz
Scholarship Recipient:**

Oluwatobiloba "Tobi" Fashipe



North Rockland High School

Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers proudly recognizes Oluwatobiloba "Tobi" Fashipe as a recipient of the 2026 Lois Bronz Scholarship, an award established to honor the legacy of Lois Bronz, a distinguished educator, advocate, and champion for educational opportunity. This scholarship recognizes students who demonstrate academic achievement, leadership, strong character, and a commitment to the transformative power of education.

Tobi is an aspiring educator whose passion for learning, service, and helping others reflects the values embodied by Lois Bronz. A graduating senior at North Rockland High School, he has distinguished himself through his academic accomplishments, earning Honor Roll recognition while actively participating in the school's Track Team and Band. He has also faithfully served on his church's Worship Team for the past two years, demonstrating his commitment to faith, leadership, and community service.

This fall, Tobi will attend Orange County Community College, where he will pursue a major in Sociology with a minor in Education. Inspired by the impact educators can have on the lives of others, he aspires to make a meaningful difference through education and counseling. His dedication to personal growth, academic excellence, and service to others exemplifies the qualities celebrated by the Lois Bronz Scholarship.

Those who know Tobi describe him as a thoughtful, mature, and determined young man with a strong moral character and a clear vision for his future. His commitment to learning, perseverance, and desire to uplift others position him for continued success as a future leader and advocate for educational opportunity.

Congratulations, Tobi, on this well-deserved honor. We celebrate your achievements and look forward to the positive impact you will make as an educator, mentor, and lifelong learner committed to serving others through education.



School District Partners



City School District of New Rochelle:

Superintendent: Dr. Corey Reynolds

Assistant Superintendent: Dr. Gail Joyner

Dr. Dagoberto Artiles, NRHS Principal

Ms. Latoya Thompson, House I Principal

Dr. Tawanda Robinson, IEYMS Principal



Ossining Union Free School District:

Superintendent: Ms. Mary Fox-Alter

Assistant Superintendent: Ms. Maria Meyer

Ms. LaToya Langley, HS Principal



Peekskill City School District:

Superintendent: Dr. David Mauricio

Assistant Superintendent: Dr. Eudes S. Budhai

Dr. Jenna Ferri, HS Principal

Mr. Donald Peters, MS Principal



White Plains Public Schools:

Superintendent: Dr. Joseph L. Ricca

Mr. Emerly A. Martinez, HS Principal



2025-2026 Teacher Mentors

Ossining High School:

Ms. Shana Williams, 1 Year

White Plains High School:

Ms. Marlena Simmons, 3 Years

Ms. Jennifer Stein, 1 Years

New Rochelle High School:

Ms. Latoya Thompson, 9 Years

Isaac E. Young Middle School:

Mr. Jason Roberts, 1 Year

Ms. Pamela Smith, 1 Year

Peekskill High School:

Ms. Minuse Thelusma, 5 Years

Peekskill Middle School:

Mr. Diego Rendon, 2 Years

Thank You!

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers extends sincere appreciation to our **teacher mentors** for all of their dedication to educational excellence.

Together, we continue to **shape the future - one student at a time!**

5-year Teacher Mentor Award



Minuse Thelusma, TSTT Teacher Mentor
Peekskill High School

Minuse Thelusma is a New York State certified mathematics teacher with more than 10 years of experience in secondary education. She currently teaches high school mathematics in the Peekskill City School District, where she instructs courses ranging from Algebra I to Geometry. Dedicated to fostering both academic and personal growth, she believes that teaching extends beyond mathematics and strives to prepare students for future success by incorporating valuable life lessons into her daily instruction.

Minuse takes pride in mentoring and supporting students as they navigate their high school years and has served as a teacher mentor with TSTT for the past FIVE years. In addition, she continues to support student achievement outside of the traditional school setting by teaching in the STEP and LPP programs at Hofstra University on weekends. As an educator and mentor, she is passionate about empowering students to reach their full potential and achieve their academic and personal goals.

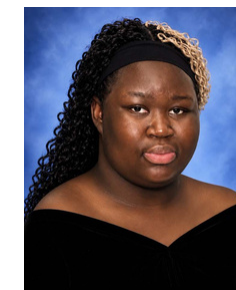
2026 College Bound Seniors New Rochelle High School



Dayanna Castro
Mercy University



Javeda Edwards
SUNY New Paltz



Rebecca Romulus
SUNY Old Westbury

Ossining High School



Christian Pilotin
University at Buffalo

White Plains High School



Leticia Oliveira
SUNY Old Westbury



Catherine King
Iona University



Westchester Program Participants

Ossining

Seniors:

Christian Pilotin

Sophomores:

Flor Alarcon
JaNay Cuthbert
Chelsea Blake
Melanie Campbell

Freshman:

Keyla Morocho
Ellie Wells
Nevaeh Jackson

White Plains

Seniors:

Leticia Oliveira
Catherine King

Juniors:

Aurora Torres

Sophomores:

Kamila Hernandez

Freshman:

Melania Logan
Abigail Alvarez

New Rochelle

Seniors:

Dayanna Castro
Javeda Edwards
Rebecca Romulus

Juniors:

Shia Anderson

Sophomores:

Savannah Leadeatte

Freshman:

Cristian Gabriel

Peekskill

Juniors:

Gabriella Ungaro
Karley Ryan
Zoe Suqui

Sophomores:

Andrew Richmond
Janella Perez
Tailien Washington
Aniya Ancrum
Sharon Perez

Freshman:

Karen Garcia
Noelia Leon
Irene Quiroz
Sharleth Pacheco

Student Leadership Movement (SLM - Gr. 8):

Isaac E. Young Middle School

Rawan Abdelqader
Gianni Athanase
Jayden Blanc Fils
Ayelen Figueroa
Ralph Fleurantin
Ethan Laracuente
Zayden Mifflin
Kameron Pierre
Jose Ramirez
Akeylia Russell
Chelsea Wong-Dunn

Peekskill Middle School

Domenica Cochancela
Brithany Fernandez
Angelina Gomez
Heidi Patino
Jhocelyn Uzho
Iker Vera
Gabriela Villa



College Partners

TSTT partners with local, regional and national colleges and universities to prepare high school students for graduation and college readiness. Currently the TSTT high school graduation rate is 96% and the college graduation rate 70%, far greater than the national average college graduation rate for students of color which is 24%. TSTT students may be eligible for a minimum 50% tuition scholarship from our growing roster of partner colleges listed below.





TSTT Leadership Team

TSTT Board of Directors



Clarence G. Williams
TSTT Board Chair



Lawrence Ault
JP Morgan Chase
Board Treasurer



Karen Young, ESQ
Comcast
Board Secretary



Dr. Josephine N. Moffett
Former Dean
Board of Directors



Bettye H. Perkins, Ed.D.
President & CEO

TSTT Staff



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Dutchess County, NY
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Regional Program Manager
jpisculli@tstt.org



2025-2026 Highlights





2025-2026 Highlights



2025-2026 Highlights



Notes

Morgan Stanley



Morgan Stanley is proud to support

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers



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M&T Bank is proud to support Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers.

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