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Westhill High School Science Teacher Wins All American Teacher Award

(April 27, 2010) **Laura Dodita**, a chemistry teacher at **Westhill High School** has been named one of eighteen winners in the National Math and Science Initiative's (NMSI) first annual All American Teacher Awards Competition. The awards, which recognize outstanding math, science, and English teachers for remarkable contributions to their students and to the teaching profession, are presented to teachers in each state participating in NMSI's Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program (APTIP).* Ms. Dodita and the other winners will receive a cash award, and each teacher will be recognized at a special awards luncheon in Washington, D.C. in May.

To be eligible, candidates had to be a current math, science, or English APTIP classroom teacher in a public high school participating in APTIP; demonstrate positive results in the APTIP; demonstrate a commitment to teaching as a career and being an inspiring model of excellence to others. Nominations were reviewed by a NMSI judging committee of educators.

**The Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program (APTIP) is a comprehensive approach that increases teacher effectiveness and student achievement in rigorous math and science courses through training, teacher and student support, vertical teaming, open enrollment, and incentives. The program increases dramatically the number of students taking and passing AP math, science, and English exams, and expands access to traditionally under-represented students. In August 2007, Westhill was one of nine high schools in Connecticut to be awarded a five year, \$594,000 Project Opening Doors grant.*