Cares Award Preface

The category for today’s CARES Award is called Teacher Workforce and it’s designed to honor a PPSD team or individual staff member who has done innovative work in recruiting, supporting or developing our teaching workforce.

As you know, I am a social worker, so I may be biased here, but I believe strongly that the role social workers play in our public schools is critical to student success.

This fall, the district is collaborating with Rhode Island College with a program to grow the social worker pipeline in Providence and to build capacity for supporting students’ physical, emotional and mental health needs.

Rhode Island College received a five-year U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant so the RIC graduate students in social work can intern in our schools this fall. The college estimates that more than 60 M.S.W. students will participate in this program over time.

This grant also has a professional development component for PPSD staff, who will receive training in trauma-informed care.

Two wonderful social workers are the PPSD point people for this project, and we want to honor them today for all the behind-the-scenes efforts they are making to keep this important work on track.

Before I call them up here, I want to recognize our indispensable and expert partner in this work, Rhode Island College, and specifically, Interim Dean of the Social Work Program, Dr. Jayashree Nimmagadda.

Amy, Rose and Jay, please come up here to receive your CARES Award.