



NJDOE News

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For Release: January 7, 2004

State Board Honors Elementary Student and High School Senior as January Students of the Month

The New Jersey State Board of Education today recognized Jonathan Gomez, a student at West Avenue School in Cumberland County, and Candice S. Lue, a senior at Pennsville Memorial High School in Salem County, as the January Students of the Month.

Gomez, an honor student who is fluent in both English and Spanish, serves as the class Treasurer for his 8th grade class. Jonathan also tutors his younger peers that have limited English skills at various school events.

Candice Lue has maintained a 4.0 grade point average all four years of her high school matriculation. Candace has achieved academically while taking demanding college preparatory and honors courses. She has also been chosen to participate in the New Jersey Governor's School of Public Issues.

"The State Board of Education is proud to recognize Jonathan Gomez and Candice Lue as our January students of the month," State Board President Arnold G. Hyndman said. "Both students have achieved academically and make significant contributions to their community through volunteering in and outside of the school setting. We honor their commitment to excellence in the classroom and to society at large."

Both students are extremely active in helping others in their school and surrounding community. Jonathan Gomez was one of the lead students that organized his school's annual holiday service program for disadvantaged children. He also collects gifts for children in order to insure they have a joyous holiday season. Likewise, Candice Lue worked as a summer missionary at the Child Evangelism Fellowship of Greater New York City program last summer where she ministered and counseled to over 300 inner-city children from different backgrounds and organizations.

"The Department of Education joins the State Board in honoring these student leaders and role models," Commissioner of Education William L. Librera said. "Both Jonathan and Candice have overcome obstacles that may have deterred others and are now helping their peers to conquer those same obstacles and achieve. Their example of success and reaching back to help others is model for all of New Jersey's students to emulate. We congratulate them on their personal excellence and on their sacrifice to help others."

Jonathan Gomez's parents do not speak or read English and Candice Lue emmigrated from Jamaica to the United States in 1990.

Each month during the school year, the State Board recognizes a student or group of students for accomplishments in community service, the arts, academics and sports. In December 2003, the State Board honored Michele A. Sarnelli, a senior at Pequannock Township High School in Morris County.

For more information, please contact the Department of Education's Public Information Office at (609) 292-1126.