

# Double the honor

## DiBlasi, Koch recognized as assistant principals of the year

By [Melvin Mason](#) on December 14, 2016

It's often a point of pride for a town when an educator receives a statewide honor.

If that's the case, Stratford can feel doubly proud, as two assistant principals have been dubbed assistant principals of the year.

Bunnell High School Assistant Principal Christopher Koch was selected as the 2017 Assistant High School Principal of the Year by the Connecticut Association of Schools. The same organization chose Lori DiBlasi, assistant at Franklin and Wilcoxson elementary schools, as the Elementary School Vice Principal of the Year.

Both will be honored by CAS at a recognition dinner next October at Saint Clements Castle in Portland. DiBlasi, who has served as an assistant principal for three years, was excited and honored at being chosen by fellow educators.

"I feel an enormous amount of gratitude to the committee that selected me," said DiBlasi, who has worked in Stratford public schools for 16 years. Before that, DiBlasi worked as a social worker for the state Department of Children and Families.



*Lori DiBlasi*

DiBlasi is also thankful to fellow administrators, teachers, parents, and students for making the job so wonderful for her.

"We have a true learning community in Stratford, and I feel that we all share in this award," she said. "Everyone who has worked with me, they inspire me. I feel like everyone shares in this because they're all so amazing. It's an amazing group of people."



*Christopher Koch*

Koch, an assistant at Bunnell for five years, had previously taught at Bunnell for six years and worked at Wooster Middle School for five years. In addition to the statewide honor, Koch will be recognized by the National Association of Secondary School Principals at its Principals Conference next summer in Philadelphia. He will also be among the choices for NASSP's National Assistant Principal of the Year award.

"I'm very humbled and honored to represent the state in the national competition. I've worked with a tremendous amount of people along my journey," Koch said. "Stratford as a district has been very supportive of my career, both as a teacher and an assistant principal."

Koch said he's fortunate to work with "so many great people" in Stratford and at Bunnell.

"It's always nice to be recognized. Without the support of my colleagues, I'm not sure where I would be today," he said.

Both winners were also proud of Stratford having two assistant principals receiving statewide attention.

"I'm thrilled for Mrs. DiBlasi and I think it speaks volumes about the education that Stratford is producing," Koch said.

DiBlasi said having two winners shows "that we're a true learning community, and I'm proud to be a part of that."