

## Phillips named to Hall of Fame

By Rich Harbert Wed Oct 31, 2007, 01:59 PM  
EDT PLYMOUTH –Old Colony Memorial

PLYMOUTH - Plymouth Community Intermediate School has its very own Hall-of-Famer.

Warren Phillips, a veteran science teacher whose work with children has already been recognized on the national stage, was inducted last week into the Massachusetts Hall of Fame for Science Educators. Science Coordinator Nick Micozzi, a 1997 inductee to the Hall of Fame, welcomed Phillips into the fold at induction ceremonies in Natick Friday.

“He’s a unique talent that we’re very fortunate to have impacting the lives of our children,” Micozzi said. “He has a wonderful

sense of humor and is a real showman. He captures both the hearts and minds of his students “ Phillips has been a science teacher at PCIS since 1975. He now works with advanced students in both middle schools.

Phillips was nominated for the award by Jacie Fitzpatrick, an eighth-grade science teacher at PCIS and one of Phillips’s former students. Phillips mentored her when she started teaching four years ago, but the lessons seem to extend back a quarter century, when Phillips taught Fitzpatrick science in seventh-grade at National Morton School.

“I really enjoyed going to his classes. They were different from any other class, in a good way. You knew you were going to learn something and you knew it was going to be fun, too. There was a certain energy in the classroom but you knew when it was time to get down to business; he commanded respect,” Fitzpatrick said.

“He really tried to make the learning experience successful for everyone, no matter what their ability. and it was just engaging....When I teach a lesson I try to see how I can make this successful for every student, too,” she said.

Picking up awards is nothing new to Phillips.

He was chosen as Disney’s Middle School Teacher of the Year in 2002 and has been named Educator of the Year by Time magazine, General Motors and the Massachusetts Association of Science Educators. USA Today also named Phillips to its All-USA Teacher Team.

Over the years, Phillips has been involved in several science initiatives. One year his students got to talk with Robert Ballard as the explorer studied the wreckage of the Titanic. Some will remember Phillips for the series of music CDs he developed to help students remember the basics of biology, chemistry and physics.

Assistant School Superintendent Gary Maestas said the Hall of Fame induction echoes what other people see – that Phillips is always working for kids.

“His family comes first, his students come second, and science comes third. He’s always thinking about kids and ways to get kids to enhance their lives with science,” Maestas said. “It comes down to the innovative way he reaches out to kids.”



PCIS science teacher Warren Phillips poses with Science Coordinator Nick Micozzi after being inducted into the Massachusetts Science Teachers Hall Of Fame..