

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

ELIZABETH TOPHAM KENNAN AWARD 2021

PRESENTED TO



Dianna Roberge Wentzell '86

DIANNA ROBERGE WENTZELL, CLASS OF 1986, the Alumnae Association is pleased to honor you with the Elizabeth Topham Kennan Award. This award is presented to alumnae whose accomplishments in the field of education exemplify the values set forth by the College.

Dianna, your career as an educator and leader in the state of Connecticut has made a tremendous impact on students, teachers and schools. You began your career as a social studies teacher in the Farmington public school system, where you taught for ten years. You then served as assistant superintendent of schools in Hartford and in district leadership positions where you focused on curriculum, instruction and assessment in both South Windsor and for the Capital Region Education Council magnet schools. In 2013 you joined the Connecticut Department of Education as chief academic officer, overseeing the Bureau of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and the Standards Implementation Division. Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy named you commissioner of education in 2015.

You became commissioner during a challenging time, when a number of reforms were being implemented. Your deep experience in the field was welcomed by many teachers, and during your tenure you focused on statewide reduction of the achievement gap and increasing the racial and ethnic diversity of the educator workforce. Now serving as the director of clinical placement at the University of St. Joseph, in 2018 you were honored by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education with the Friends of Public Education Award.

Dianna, for your outstanding accomplishments, the Alumnae Association is honored to present you with the Elizabeth Topham Kennan Award on this, your thirty-fifth, reunion.

MARIA Z. MOSSAIDES '73
PRESIDENT
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

LIZ LIERMAN
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE