

# School administrator recognized for work

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Dr. Andrew Rose has always admired recipients of Bergen County's Distinguished Service Award for leadership in public schools. This year, he gets to experience the admiration for himself.

Each year, the Bergen County Association of School Administrators gives the award to someone who has been involved with the association and countywide issues. Rose, the chief school administrator of the Norwood Public School received the award May 9.

In college, Rose was an applied music major. After experiencing difficulty trying to make a living as a musician, he decided to take up teaching.

"At that time, there was a teacher shortage in New York City and they offered a one-time crash program at NYU over the summer," he said. "If you took it, you would get eight credits and a temporary license to teacher and then you'd have five years to get a master's degree in education."

Rose said he took the opportunity because he needed to make a living.

Rose said he often met with the principal because he wanted to teach the most challenging students. The agreement was that Rose would work with them for two years to develop a rapport with them. After one year, he felt the students, who often came from violent homes, felt comfortable with him and became aware of his expectations in the classroom.

He said he set goals and challenges for himself in the city and decided he was interested in changing the school system. He



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW ROSE

Dr. Andrew Rose poses with his Distinguished Service Award for his leadership with Bergen County Executive Superintendent Dr. Aaron Graham.

studied administration at NYU and then received his doctorate in educational administration at Columbia University.

After receiving his New York State certification in administration, he began to pursue jobs in the city but felt that there was little advancement.

"Initially, I had no intent of leaving New York City. I love working with the children," he said. "Many of my students were Hispanic,

many were African-American - I liked the culture of the community and was very happy there but I wanted to advance."

He began to apply in the suburbs and was hired as a principal in Norwood in 1980. He was a principal for four years and was promoted to school administrator, where he's been ever since.

Rose said his career path has been very rewarding and enriching to experience many different

generations of people.

"I feel like a grandfather to some students who come back as young adults," he said. "I actually have a handful of parents in the school now who were students when I was a new principal here - their children to me are sort of like my grandchildren."

Rose said it's a very warm feeling to have focused his entire administrative career in one district and become part of Nor-

wood's history. To him, receiving this award means that he has done enough things in the past to have won the esteem of his peers.

"I remember always admiring people who got the award. I felt it was sort of like the hall of fame of school administrators so I was really very honored to have been selected this year."

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