



# Awards Ceremony

March 19,  
2024



# Table of Contents

Award Descriptions	3-4	Therapeutic Recreation Award	21-22
Special Citations	5-7	Community Professional Award	23
Agency Awards	8-10	O'Brien Humanitarian Award	24-25
Regional Awards	11-15	Honored Retirees/In Memoriam	26
Outstanding Commercial Partner	16	Past Award Recipients	27-32
Government Official Award	17-18	Annual Golf Outing	33
Outstanding Student Award	19	Thank You	34
Nancy White New Professional Award	20		

## Awards Committee Message



A well-recognized honors and awards program is a key attribute of any highly respected technical or professional association. Currently, the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association has a vigorous program to honor outstanding achievement and meritorious service in the various areas served by the MRPA. Through its honors and awards program, MRPA is proud to recognize the exceptional accomplishments of the professionals in our field who help us grow and become better leaders in our Communities. On behalf of the Awards Committee, thank you to everyone who nominated these outstanding professionals and programs, and congratulations to all those we are able to recognize today.

# Award Descriptions



## Special Citation

This award can be presented to an individual, group, or organization that has promoted and encouraged recreation and leisure services.

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## Agency of the Year

**Design of Facility** - given to the agency that used creative and innovative concepts and ideas around a new or renovated facility that has been built or is in the process of being built.

**Program Outreach** - given to the agency that used creative and innovative concepts or ideas around a new or improved program over and above regular programming that demonstrates a great benefit to the community/facility.

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## Regional Community Impact of the Year

This award is given to a town or city that is a member of MRPA that has provided an outstanding service, program, and or event to their community in 2023. The town or city will be nominated by someone in their MRPA region. Each region will be represented and will have a town or city given an award.

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## Outstanding Commercial Partner

This award recognizes a vendor, company, or individual who has significantly contributed to the field of parks and recreation and developed a strong partnership with MRPA, a local organization or agency. This vendor, company, or individual has shown great leadership and support to the parks and recreation field by providing equipment, volunteer time, in-kind services or other contributions to a project or program that benefits the community and demonstrates the importance of parks and recreation. The Corporate Partner must be a Massachusetts Recreation and Parks Association member.

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## Government Official of the Year

This award is given to a Senator, Representative, Mayor, Town Manager, Town Administrator, etc. who has displayed dedication and advocacy on behalf of Parks and Recreation in a community.

# Award Descriptions



## Oustanding Student

This award is given to a student in a college setting that shows appreciation and dedication to the park and recreation industry and contributed their dedication to their college or university. They must demonstrate serious interest in pursuing a career in the field of Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Service or Therapeutic Recreation.

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## Nancy White New Professional of the Year

This award is given to a new member of the MRPA who has been in the park and recreation field full-time for less than five (5) years. This person has made outstanding contributions to the profession and their community.

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## Therapeutic Recreation Award

This award is presented to an individual or department that is increasing accessibility within their community through Therapeutic Recreation, Inclusion or Adaptive programs and services. Recipients of this award have created an innovative program or event for individuals with varying ability levels or is a professional who is going above and beyond in their work with disability inclusion and accessibility.

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## Community Professional of the Year

This award is given to a member of MRPA that has provided outstanding service and dedication to their community and continues to improve the field of park and recreation. This person can serve in any specialty area within the park and recreation industry.

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## The Peter C. & Eric W. O'Brien Humanitarian Award

This award is the highest honor bestowed by the MRPA and recognizes a park and recreation professional who has demonstrated the advancement of the parks and recreation industry. This person is a respected member of the community and maintains a strong dedication and passion for parks and recreation in Massachusetts. This award was established by the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association's Executive Board in 1980, in memory of Peter C. and Eric W. O'Brien, long-time members of our association.



# Special Citation

Kate DeAngelis

*Lexington Recreation & Community Programs*



# Parks & Recreation

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION



NRPA NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION

This Special Citation recognizes Kate DeAngelis for receiving the NRPA's 30 Under 30 award. DeAngelis joined the Town in 2019 in a part-time role, before becoming Lexington's first Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist in 2020. Over the last three years, DeAngelis has secured more than \$75,000 in grant funding for Recreation and Community Programs. She conceptualized and implemented the Leadership in Training program, which allows neurodiverse individuals and individuals with disabilities to gain experience related to job interviews, resume building, workplace communication, and professional development. She also oversaw the design and completion of the Town's first sensory room inside the Community Center, which provides a space for individuals experiencing varying levels of crisis to decompress, a place for neurodiverse children and other residents to play and explore, or as a quiet destination for someone just seeking alone time. She hopes to someday advocate for inclusion on a State level, providing funding and services to local Recreation departments.



# Special Citation

Kim Carney

*Franklin Recreation Commonwealth Field Hockey League*

## COMMONWEALTH FIELD HOCKEY LEAGUE



This Special Citation recognizes Kim Carney for her notable work building and establishing the Commonwealth Field Hockey League. Kim has been working at the Franklin recreation Department for seven years and was recently promoted to Deputy Director in 2023. Since 2004 the Town of Franklin has been providing Youth Field Hockey to the residents. Kim took over the wildly popular Walpole Youth Field hockey league 4 years ago that was for 5th - 8th graders and created the Commonwealth League servicing K-8th graders. There are over 36 Towns throughout the MetroWest and South Shore area, with over 100 teams participating. Kim also serves as the webmaster for the site and oversees the scheduling of referees, registration of towns and rules committee. The league continues to grow each year with an estimate of over 2000 young girls to participate in 2024.



# Special Citation

## CPRP Staff Recognition Lexington Recreation & Community Programs



The Town of Lexington has a proven history of supporting trainings and workshops for staff throughout the organization. Pursuing and maintaining National Certification through NRPA requires a commitment of ongoing professional growth in the Park and Recreation Industry. Active participation in local, regional and national efforts support all of us to be our best. Congratulations to the Lexington Recreation and Community Programs full time team who through their leadership have all earned their Certified Park and Recreation Professional certification.





# Agency of the Year - Design of Facility

## Billerica Recreation

### *Peggy Hannon-Rizza Recreation Complex*

Before



After



In 2018/19, the Billerica Recreation Department identified PHR as a facility in need of drastic rehabilitation. At that time, the complex consisted of one football field in poor condition, a multi-purpose field named the “practice field” due to its inadequate size to be used for games, and two softball fields that were also in poor condition. The complex also consisted of very old out buildings acting as storage and concessions that were at the end of their useful life while not meeting building codes, and with no permanent accessible restrooms. Fortunately, through successful presentations to the CPC committee, this project ultimately received their approval to fund 47% of the project (total cost of this project was: \$10,401,000 with \$4,922,000 being funded through CPC funds!). The next hurdle for this project would be to gain the approval of the Selectboard, which was earned unanimously. From there, the project was presented at the Spring 2021 Town Meeting where it received an overwhelming supermajority vote of support, 129-18! In late March 2023, the complex officially opened with a dedication ceremony attended by hundreds of residents. This park, named for former Recreation Director, Peggy Hannon-Rizza, finally now is befitting to her name, and a facility her friends and family can be proud to be associated with her legacy. The PHR park has quickly become a crown jewel for the town, and one of the nicest recreation amenities in the region.



# Agency of the Year -Program Outreach

## Littleton Recreation

### *Adult Recess initiated by Jon Kazanjian*



The Adult Recess Program initiated by Jon Kazanjian is a thoughtfully designed program that engages adults of all ages and backgrounds. The program blends physical activity, social interaction, and a spirit of playfulness which creates a positive impact on the lives of individuals within our community.

The program has brought together a population (ages 20-50) that is not currently actively participating in recreation and leisure opportunities. The program does this by providing them with free child care, which is normally a barrier when parents with young kids want to participate in programs.

To make the program affordable and accessible to a larger audience LPR has partnered with local businesses, restaurants, and bars to sponsor the program as well as providing space for various activities.

This program is a testament to Jon Kazanjian's dedication to quality and creative programming and it can be shown through participation numbers and the interest of other departments looking to offer a similar program.



# Agency of the Year -Program Outreach

Littleton Recreation

*Adult Recess initiated by Jon Kazanjian*





# Regional Community Impact of the Year

## Cape & Islands *Barnstable Recreation*



The Barnstable Youth Commission is a group of students representing Barnstable High School, Sturgis Charter High Schools East and West, Cape Cod Academy, and Saint John Paul II High School whose members are appointed by the Town Council and advised by members of the community. The Youth Commission is administered through the Recreation Division of the Community Services Department. Their goal is to work with town officials, appointed and elected, towards furthering the goals of the youth and making the Town a better place for the youth of today and tomorrow. Accomplishments include producing the annual 7th Grade Youth Summit, Community Substance Abuse Prevention Forums, introducing the One Love Foundation program to address relationship safety at local high schools.

# Regional Community Impact of the Year

Metro West

*Medfield Recreation Department*



If there was an award for “Comeback Department of the Year”, the Medfield Recreation Department would be it. After a few years of challenges, the Medfield Department was revitalized under the leadership of new Director Katie Walper and immediately began to impact the Medfield Community with innovative programming, upgrades to facilities, and community outreach. Many new programs were offered throughout the year which excited the Medfield community!

To call one of them to name would be the Festival of Lights that is a town wide celebration including music, crafts, story time, donut decorating, BINGO, and candle lighting. The event is open to all so then everyone can come together in support of each other for an evening of entertainment and discovery. The event came about from Community Needs and resident feedback, and the department was listening the whole way through to make sure every voice was heard. This event is an example of the programming and revitalized excitement around the Medfield Parks and Recreation Department!



# Regional Community Impact of the Year

## South Shore *City of Quincy Recreation*



Michelle Hanly and the whole Quincy Recreation Department were thrown a curveball this Winter when the Mayor elected to add an outdoor 120'x60' ice-skating rink complete with a Zamboni. This is most definitely a good problem to have and it was handled with grace. Rules, regulations, procedures, and information were all made available to the public in a short time.

All of this took place on top of their normally scheduled programming, events, community pool, and holiday parade. Strategic methods were taken to use the City's already employed and seasoned staff to properly manage the rink.

The City was none the wiser with the work behind the scenes and Quincy Recreation made it look effortless.

# Regional Community Impact of the Year

## North East

### *Newburyport Recreation and Youth Services*



Newburyport Youth Services has always been a force to reckon with in the youth development world. The youth and families in Newburyport are their top priority and making sure they have safe places to hold their programs is paramount. It has been a challenging few years, to say the least, and the pandemic didn't help; however, they are a resilient bunch!

In late 2021, the Youth Services Department, a combination of recreation and social services, lost their Rec Center when the old school they had been in for 6 years was shut down. For the next six months, the department bounced around without programming space or offices. Fortunately, their community stepped up and was able to find temporary spaces but with little to no access to indoor gym spaces outside of the summer months. Their team rallied and decided they needed to make some changes and started thinking outside the box for programming, events, and projects. One of their top goals was to engage as many families as possible through the limited spaces they had. Their hard work and dedication have been paying off. In 2023, the Youth Center staff were able to increase their middle school youth center memberships by 43%. They started offering after-school block party sessions held outdoors, under an event tent, that expanded to adding bussing to a temporary center in a local church and revising clubs and programs. They also saw a 10% increase in preschool program registrations despite a lack of dedicated space. Realizing the needs and the changes that have been made, at the end of 2023, the department went through a reorganization, and now offers adult recreation programs such as an adult hiking club and of course, pickleball. The City Council voted soon after the reorganization and they were established as a new department, Newburyport Recreation and Youth Services. Newburyport is creative, resilient, engaging, and dedicated to the youth and families of Newburyport.



# Regional Community Impact of the Year

## Central Fitchburg Recreation



Under the management of James Bunnell the Director of Parks and Recreation he has brought back to life a well loved DPW Day. The event had been going on for the past 10+ years and unfortunately fell off the radar due to the pandemic.

After coming across boxes of kids construction hats, stickers, and sand toys he took on new strategies and implemented plans to make the next DPW day even bigger and better than before.

The department was able to bring together Parks, Recreation, Water, Waste Water, Streets, Fire, Police, and the School Department. Over 500 residents were in attendance to allow kids to sit and explore in big trucks, play in huge sand piles, and learn all about each departments role.

This was a big milestone for Fitchburg Recreation and shows the commitment the department has for the city.



# Outstanding Commercial Partner

Michael Berry  
*Musco Lighting*



The Outstanding Commercial Partner award goes to Michael Berry of Musco Lighting. Mike has served as the Commercial Representative for MRPA for countless years.

On top of being in the top 10 reps in the Country for Musco, he also strives to help MRPA grow the commercial membership. Mike very rarely misses a zoom call or MRPA meeting, and when he is not there he is in the community presenting at public meetings and responding to any concerns that arise.

Mike makes himself available to anyone in the association that needs assistance and provides guidance, options, and works creatively to find the best solutions for each project, small or large. Mike has shown his dedication to numerous communities with a multitude of completed projects in Massachusetts and we cannot thank him enough for his hard work and enthusiasm to our industry.



# Government Official of the Year

Marcus Vaughn  
*State Representative*



Representative Marcus Vaughn of the 9th Norfolk District was sworn into office in 2023 and it did not take him long to become a good friend and advocate of the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association. Being a person who values recreation, parks, and youth sports, Representative Vaughn almost immediately filed and sponsored bills that could positively impact the recreation profession. Three notable bills are his AED bill that if passed would put a state-funded AED at all athletic playing fields. This bill would also seek to find funding for CPR/AED training throughout the state. The second bill is a bill that would make recommendations on the quality of coaching staff at club sports facilities, with a focus on ensuring proper training, vetting, and reporting mechanisms for coaches who work with children and young adults. The third bill, if passed would prevent harassment and assault on youth sports officials. But perhaps Representative Vaughn's greatest contribution to the recreation profession is his availability to us. Representative Vaughn jumped right in by attending an MRPA Regional Meeting to discuss the legislative process, spoke at our first Advocacy Day at the State House (and gave an awesome behind-the-scenes tour to our membership).

# Government Official of the Year

Edward R. Philips  
*State Representative*



MA Representative Ted Philips is no stranger to the recreation profession. Representative Philips once worked for the Sharon Recreation Department as a lifeguard working his way up to waterfront manager. Representative Philips has proven to be a great resource to the MRPA. Ted has helped to guide the MRPA through the process of setting up our very first Advocacy Day at the State House. Representative Philips signed off as our co-sponsor for the event (a requirement to hold an Advocacy Day at the State House). Representative Philips also attended a Regional Meeting to help introduce our members to the legislative process and was the MRPA's featured speaker at Advocacy Day. Representative Philips also has a proven track record of making recreation and parks a priority in the 8th Norfolk District. This past year he filed a bill that would promote best practices in youth sports. Without the help and guidance of Representative Ted Philips the dream of having an MRPA Advocacy Day at the State House this past fall may not have come together to become a reality.

# Outstanding Student of the Year

## Julia Ryan & Brenna Waldinger *Danvers Recreation*

Brenna and Julia are seniors at their respective colleges and graduating this May. They have both been a part of Danvers Recreation programs since they were children and have risen through the programs as participants to invaluable staff members. They are a package that some would call a dynamic duo. Their passion, motivation, and ability to engage the community throughout their work is first-rate. They both possess an unwavering commitment to their job and further to the community, which has not only made them instrumental assets to the department, but also positioned them as transformative forces in the recreation field for years to come.

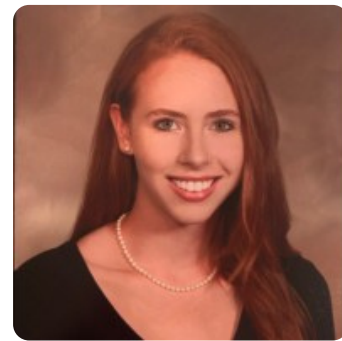
Brenna and Julia attacked social media marketing campaigns with vigor, seamlessly coordinated pickleball clinics, supported the operations of a robust summer concert series, chaperoned field trips, and face painted. The charisma and poise that they bring to the office on a daily basis has impacted the culture and reinvigorated a (sometimes) tired Danvers Rec team.

Despite heading back to campus in the fall, both Brenna & Julia have hopped back into the Danvers Rec saddle on school vacations, and even contribute remotely with various projects and marketing efforts.



**Julia Ryan**

Julia is a Recreation Management & Policy student specializing in Therapeutic Recreation at the University of New Hampshire, in Durham, NH. She is also a resident of Danvers and has risen from a summer playground instructor to an invaluable office intern capable of customer service that will charm even the crankiest curmudgeon. Julia's passionate about therapeutic recreation and envisions herself in a role that increases therapeutic recreation and accessibility opportunities in a community recreation setting.



**Brenna Waldinger**

Brenna is a Sports Management student at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is a resident of Danvers and has been our tennis director for the past 3 years, an in-office intern for the past two years when not on the court, and a willing and able champion of anything administrative. Brenna is passionate about athletics, music and e-sports.



# Nancy White New Professional Award

Lisa Shepple  
*Bolton Parks & Recreation*



Lisa Shepple embodies the qualities and values that the Massachusetts Recreation and Parks Association seeks to honor. Her selflessness, dedication, and community-oriented approach make her an exceptional leader. Lisa's commitment is truly remarkable as she has worked full-time on a part-time basis for numerous years, showcasing her passion and unwavering dedication to her responsibilities. Her tireless efforts go beyond the call of duty, reflecting her strong work ethic and deep commitment to the community. Lisa's impact extends to the creation of the Bolton Community Fund, a testament to her altruism and concern for the well-being of our residents during times of need. This initiative reflects her proactive approach to community service, highlighting her as a leader who not only identifies issues but actively works towards solutions. Lisa's involvement with the Bolton Youth Soccer Team is exemplary, showcasing her commitment to fostering a sense of community among our youth. Through her volunteer work, she has positively influenced the lives of many, instilling values of teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship.

Additionally, Lisa's dedication to ensuring a memorable summer for the camp kids is commendable. Her efforts contribute significantly to the well-rounded development and happiness of our community's youth, making a lasting impact on their lives.



# Therapeutic Recreation Award

Melissa Carter  
*Natick Recreation & Parks*



Melissa Carter has been on the planning and directing end of many successful programs that help friends of all abilities have a memorable summer and school year. One program is Camp Arrowhead. This camp is one of the staple recreational summer camps for those with disabilities. Not only do we get participants who come locally but we have participants who fly in just to take part in this summer camp. The camp culminates with a sleepaway camp at the end of the summer which has sold out every year with a lengthy waitlist. This year Melissa is working with surrounding towns recreation departments to formalize this relationships so other recreation departments can take advantage of this program. This summer she also spearheaded a Counselor in Training program at Camp Arrowhead.

Melissa also manages the Saturday Adaptive Skyline Program that included roughly 300 participants this fall alone. Programs included: Dinner, Movie Games, Coffee House, Inclusion Sports, Creative Fun Fitness, Athletic Adventure, and Move with Eve. In addition to all of that she manages a part time staff of 10!

Melissa has implemented a adaptive strength class, designed after school programs, maintained her Youth Mental health First Aid trainer status, worked with an eagle scout to design 3 ADA accessible picnic tables, and has increased the inclusivity town wide. Melissa works tirelessly for her community/department and has touched the lives of so many residents.



# Therapeutic Recreation Award

Melissa Carter

*Natick Recreation & Parks*





# Community Professional Award

Erin LeBlanc  
*Millis Recreation*



Erin LeBlanc is one of the best things to happen to the Town of Millis and is one of the most creative programmers around! Since coming on board as the Teen Program Coordinator for the Town of Millis, Erin has used creative, fun, and very original ideas to impact not just teens but her entire community. Millis Rec Serves: This is a teen volunteer program. The Millis Rec Serves program that Erin created has grown to over 100 teen volunteers. This program promotes community good and giving back. This past year Millis Rec Serves logged in over 700 HOURS of volunteer service! (Goal was 500 hours) Erin and her Millis Rec Serves Teens were honored with a citation from the MA House of Representatives for all their hard work and volunteer service. Adapted Programming & DEI: Erin has helped to turn Millis Recreation into one of the most inclusive programs in the state. Without any formal therapeutic recreation training, Erin has studied and sought advice on how to build an inclusive department. Senior Spotlight Classes: Erin has worked with the seniors in the Millis Council of Aging to tap into the expertise of the senior population. Erin learns from the senior population what they are “experts” in and feels confident teaching. She then works with the seniors to create a recreation class offering. She is an outside-of-the-box thinker who is not afraid to take a risk and try something new. She has a deep and sincere love for promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. She is completely invested in the teens that she works with and promotes activities that are healthy and will give them lifelong learning skills. Millis is a better community because of Erin LeBlanc.



# Peter C. & Eric W. O'Brien Humanitarian Award

Sharon Locke  
*Weston Recreation*





# Peter C. & Eric W. O'Brien Humanitarian Award

Sharon Locke  
*Weston Recreation*

Sharon Locke has been working in the field of Community Recreation for thirty years. Her first job out of college was working for the Brookline Recreation Department as the Aquatics Director. In 2006 Sharon moved to the Town of Weston to take on the position of Assistant Recreation Director. Sharon is being awarded the Peter C. and Eric W. O'Brien Humanitarian Award for her years of contributions to the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association. For over 20 years she has eagerly volunteered in many capacities such as Conference Committee, Auction Chair, Metrowest Representative, Aquatic Representative, Professional Development Representative, Education Representative, and Legislative Representative.

As the Aquatic Representative, Sharon represented pool interests on the MRPA Board and helped to communicate Red Cross updates and share any aquatic-related information to the membership, including leading numerous talks, round table discussions, and presenting aquatic sessions at the annual conference. Sharon created the MRPA Aquatic Leadership Training Institute, a one-day program designed to provide leadership and management training to seasonal lifeguard staff in addition to pool and waterfront directors. This program has become a staple within the MRPA aquatic training.

Recently, as the Legislative Chair, Sharon has actively followed bills of interest and communicated updates to the board and membership. She has worked hard to make connections with MA elected officials and introduce them to the MRPA. In 2023 Sharon led the effort to organize the MRPA's first-ever Advocacy Day at the MA State House. The Advocacy Day helped the MRPA membership connect with the state government and speak with their local representative about bills and policies that affect the daily work of a recreation professional.

Sharon has demonstrated unequivocal dedication to the MRPA, evident in the countless hours she has volunteered over the past twenty years and the effort she has put into her responsibilities. She has created and led valuable and lasting MRPA events and programs. Sharon also has a passion for mentoring young professionals, especially in the aquatic field, many of whom are now directors themselves.

# Our Honored Retirees



**Dan Keefe**

Natick Recreation and Parks Department



**Karen Peirce**

Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture

# In Memoriam



**Joseph Menice**

Hull Parks and Recreation



# Our Past Award Recipients

## Legislator Award

- 1999 Walter DeFilippi, R-West Springfield**
- 2000 John Lepper, R-Attleboro**
- 2001 Cheryl Jacques, D-Needham**
- 2002 James McGovern, Worcester**
- 2003 John Olver, Pittsfield**
- 2005 Pamela Resor, Acton**
- 2006 Frank Smizik Brookline**
- 2007 Marie St. Fleur, 5th District**
- 2008 Thomas McGee, 3rd Essex & Middlesex**
- 2009 Lewis Evangelidis, 1st District Worcester**
- 2010 Mary E. Grant, Beverly**
- 2012 Stephen Kulik, Worthington**
- 2013 Jerry Parisella, Beverly**
- 2014 Denise Garlick, Needham**
- 2016 Carolyn Dykema, 8th Middlesex**
- 2017 Carmine Gentile, State Representative**
- 2017 Richard Ross, State Senator**
- 2018 Hannah Kane, State Representative**
- 2020 Lou Kafka, R-Sharon**
- 2022 Robert Hedlund - Mayor of Weymouth**
- 2023 Michelle Ciccolo - State Representative**

# **Our Past Award Recipients**

## Outstanding Student of the Year

- 1990 Diana Casey, U-Mass**
- 1991 Betsey Morrow, Gordon College**
- 1992 Karen Kaminsky, Springfield College**
- 1993 Dawn Buckley, Gordon College**
- 1994 Mary-Theresa Kujath, Springfield College**
- 1995 Robin Burrows, Springfield College**
- 1996 Beth Lindsay, Gordon College**
- 1997 Alison Bache, Gordon College**
- 1997 Robin VerPlank, Springfield College**
- 1999 Tesa Christy, Gordon College**
- 2001 Karyn MacNeill, Danvers – Intern**
- 2002 Angela Linsalata, Gordon College**
- 2004 Emily Manion, Bridgewater State**
- 2005 Karianne Kelley, New Hampshire**
- 2006 Bethany Pinkham, Gordon College**
- 2007 Maureen Michaud, Bridgewater State**
- 2008 Alexa Richards, UNH**
- 2011 Nicholas Fitzgerald, Gordon College**
- 2015 Erik McCarthy, Salem State**
- 2016 Elliabeth Parent, UNH**
- 2017 Sarah Hootstein, Bridgewater State**
- 2018 Christine Ouellette, Bridgewater State**
- 2019 Becca Varney, Bridgewater State**
- 2021 Christian Draus, Gordon College**
- 2022 Paige Bagley, UNH**



# **Our Past Award Recipients**

## Therapeutic Recreation of the Year

- 1984 Sharon Nichols, Northeastern University**
- 1985 Barbara Bromfield, New England Sinai Hospital**
- 1986 Susan Dunn, Fernald State School**
- 1987 Frank Robinson, Northeastern University**
- 1988 Nancy Linn Swain, Fernald State School**
- 1989 Deborah Coloyan, Greenway Rehab Center**
- 1990 Susan Moriarty & WEFSS, Templeton Colony**
- 1991 Karen Peirce, Newton**
- 1991 Wendy Pearl, Newton/Wellesley Hospital**
- 1992 Karen Simmons, Fernald State School**
- 1993 Donna Parker, Therapeutic Rec Specialist**
- 1994 Peggy Hannon-Rizza, Fernald State School**
- 1995 Karen Autrey, Mediplex Rehab**
- 1996 Bernadette Mackin, Mediplex Rehab**
- 1997 Christine Petrillo, Youville Hospital**
- 2003 Stephen Kelley, Bournewood Hospital**
- 2005 Mark Kelly, Newton Parks & Recreation**
- 2012 Anna Wood, Sudbury**
- 2013 Brandon Fitts, Brookline**
- 2014 Chenine Peloquin, EMARC**
- 2015 Michelle Davies, Barnstable**
- 2023 Kate DeAngelis, Lexington**

# Our Past Award Recipients

## New Professional of the Year

<b>2000</b>	<b>Melissa Battite, Brookline</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>Renee Tavares, Fairhaven</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>Matthew Casparius, Brookline</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>Jennifer Pinkham, Peabody</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>Karyn MacNeill, Manchester</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>Heather Maietta, Arlington</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>Brendan Egan, Burlington</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>Joscelyn Ruelle-Kersker, Beverly</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>Andrea Egmont, Newburyport</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>Jon Marshall, Natick</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>Melissa Roy, Hamilton/Wenham</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>Jessica Cooney, Dover</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>Peter Coleman, Lexington</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>Damion Clements, Truro</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>Amber Comeau, Sudbury</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>Mark Ghiloni, Dover</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>Melissa Rier, Acton</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>Jeff Tomaino, Worcester</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>Andrew St. George, Upton</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>Catherine Seastedt, Norwood</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>Matt Cauchon, Stoughton</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>Thomas Romano, Lexington</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>Molly Reid, Stoughton</b>



# Our Past Award Recipients

## Community Professional of the Year

1984	William Hedlund, Braintree	2004	Dan Keefe, III, Natick
1985	William Aguiar, Somerset	2005	Stanley Walczak, Chicopee
1985	Brian Elliott, Northampton	2006	Ned Bangs, Marshfield
1986	William Kilcoyne, Wayland	2007	Bruce Doig, Beverly
1987	Gary Hardenbrook, Shrewsbury	2008	Karen Simmons, Lexington
1988	Cynthia Erho, Montague	2009	Matthew Casparius, Manchester
1989	Dale Connor, Norwell	2011	Melissa Battite, Brookline
1990	Dan Brosnan, Arlington	2012	Jan Kasetta, Wellesley
1991	Donald Roberts, Burlington	2013	Nancy McShea, Wayland/Sudbury
1992	Nancy White, Needham	2014	Barry DeBlasio, Plymouth
1993	Lawrence Crowley, Danvers	2015	Sheila Butts, Lexington
1994	Richard Walker, Peabody	2016	Jen Davis, Peabody
1995	Edward J. Moriarty, Springfield	2017	Lisa Paradis, Brookline
1996	Russell Halloran, Newton	2018	Brendan Eagan, Burlington
1997	Patricia Carey, Needham	2019	Trisha Powell, Framingham
1998	Anthony Herdemian, Wilbraham	2020	Jen Anderson, Grafton
1999	David MacTavish, Dover	2021	John Gleason, Barnstable
2000	Patricia Machado, Barnstable	2022	Christine Dean, Lexington
2001	Stacy Barr, Attleboro	2023	Julie Harrington, Medway
2002	Joan Fairbank, Beverly		
2003	Gerald Miller, Norwood		

# Our Past Award Recipients

## Peter C. & Eric W. O'Brien Humanitarian Award

1980	Peter C. O'Brien, Posthumously	2001	Angela Snell, Shrewsbury
1981	Chester Sawtell, Sawtell Bros.	2002	Dr. Peggy Hothem, Gordon College
1982	Kenneth C. White, Littleton	2003	Cynthia Erho, Greenfield
1983	Dr. Evelyn Kirrane, Brookline	2004	Kathryn Garcia, Southborough
1984	David Clifton, Sharon	2005	Patty Carey, Needham
1985	Thomas Taylor, Worcester	2006	R. Thomas Hamond, Marblehead
1986	Roland Kerkhoff, Creative Craft	2007	Robert Lynch, Brookline
1987	Michael Rourke, Natick	2008	Barry Welch, Quincy
1988	Roger LaPlant, Chicopee	2009	Pat Armstrong, Yarmouth
1989	Eric O'Brien, Medfield	2012	Karen Simmons, Lexington
1990	Louis Ghiloni, Marlboro	2013	Nancy White, Brewster
1991	Danner DeStephano, Concord	2014	Peggy Hannon-Rizza, Billerica
1992	Russell Halloran, Newton	2015	Nancy McShea, Sudbury
1993	John M. Whalen, E. Longmeadow	2016	Melissa Battite, Brookline
1994	William Kilcoyne, Wayland	2017	Patti Machado, Barnstable
1995	Gwen Kermode, Natick	2018	Jennifer Davis, Peabody
1996	Doug MacDougall, Weston	2019	Robert Antonelli, Jr., Worcester
1997	William Hedlund, Braintree	2020	Bruce Doig, Beverly
1998	Gary Briere, Boston	2022	Dan Keefe, Natick
1999	John Hutchinson, Wellesley	2023	Barry DeBlasio, Plymouth
2000	Richard Cugini, Natick		



# 2023 MRPA Annual Golf Outing Winners



**Golf Tournament  
Champion:  
Team Musco  
Lighting**



**Longest Drive:  
Ryan Jette**

**Closest to Pin:  
Mark Ghiloni**

MRPA would like to  
thank all of you for  
joining us in  
celebrating our  
colleagues. See you  
in 2025!

