

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) today congratulated Kim Oliver, a kindergarten teacher at Broad Acres Elementary School in Silver Spring, for being named "Teacher of the Year" by the Council of Chief State School Officers.

"I am extremely proud of my fellow Marylander for receiving this extraordinary honor," Hoyer said. "Teachers like Kim hold the future of America in their hands and are doing their part to give every child the chance to reach their God-given potential."

While its makeup reflects the great diversity of America, Oliver's class also poses significant challenges. All but one of her 15 students speaks a language other than English. Furthermore, Broad Acres Elementary is largely low-income, with 90 percent of students receiving free or reduced meals, and it was at risk of reconstitution by the state when Oliver arrived six years ago.

"In the face of tremendous cultural and socioeconomic obstacles, Kim has helped improve her students' test scores, increase parental involvement, and revamp Broad Acres' academic performance," Hoyer said. "On behalf of the 5th Congressional district, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations."

The Maryland and National Teacher of the Year Programs recognize and honor exemplary elementary, middle, and high school teachers that are excellent instructors and education leaders in their schools and communities.

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