



## PRESS RELEASE

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**From:** Vincent Pezzimenti, Public Information Specialist

**Re:** Press Release

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## Salamanca 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Receives NYS Excellence in Teaching Award

SALAMANCA, NY – Salamanca City Central School District 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Laura Hodara was honored with the Empire State Excellence in Teaching Award on Wednesday.

Mrs. Hodara was presented the award by Lori Cornell, a regional representative for Governor Andrew Cuomo.

“In order to qualify as one of the best teachers in the state, you need to have several qualities, exemplifying dedication, mission, skills, and expertise. All of that of an outstanding teacher,” Cornell said while addressing Mrs. Hodara and her classroom of students.

The Excellence in Teaching Award was created by Governor Cuomo and recognizes leading teachers in Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Award-winning teachers are selected by a panel of educational leaders from a range of professional associations. Mrs. Hodara is the only award recipient from the Southern Tier counties of Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Allegany.

She will receive a plaque and \$5,000 to use for professional development. Husband Anthony and daughters Sophia and Grace gifted Mrs. Hodara with flowers and balloons during the surprise presentation.

“I work with amazing people,” Mrs. Hodara said. “This isn’t about me. It’s about the kids in this room, the kids that have been in this room in the past. And, I look forward to the kids that are going to be in my room in the future. This is about the team of teachers that I work with and the leadership that I have.”



Mrs. Hodara has taught in the Salamanca City Central School District for nine years – the last seven at Seneca Intermediate School. She spent her first two years in the district at Prospect Elementary School as a teacher assistant.

Seneca Intermediate principal Michelle Siebert, speaking to Mrs. Hodara’s students, said: “This is excellence. Your teacher models that each and every day for you. She’s here for you. She’s your role model. She’s sometimes your parent. I’ve been in here a couple of times, and she has been called ‘mom’. So she’s also a mom to you when you’re here at school. For that, we truly appreciate you.”

To learn more about the Salamanca City Central School District visit [www.SalamancaNY.org](http://www.SalamancaNY.org). You can also find us on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/SalamancaWarriors](http://www.Facebook.com/SalamancaWarriors).

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**PHOTO CAPTION:** Left to right: Lori Cornell, Governor’s Representative, Mark Beehler, SCCSD Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, Joseph Moynihan, Seneca Intermediate Assistant Principal, Michelle Siebert, Seneca Intermediate Principal, Laura Hodara, daughters Sophia and Grace Hodara, and husband Anthony Hodara.