



The State University  
of New York

Office of Strategic Planning  
and Accountability

State University Plaza  
Albany, New York 12246

[www.suny.edu](http://www.suny.edu)

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Jennifer LoTurco  
Assistant Vice Chancellor for External Affairs  
SUNY System Administration  
353 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12246

Dear Jen:

Yesterday one of my favorite high school teachers, Mr. Greg Ahlquist, won a well deserved and prestigious award for "New York State Teacher of the Year". He is currently a professor at Geneseo and has been for about 16 years. Most importantly, he is a '95 Geneseo alum.

In the courses that he teaches at Webster Thomas High School, a suburb of Rochester, he shares with his students his experience as a college professor at Geneseo. Every student is held to a college standard in his classroom; he helps them achieve college level work while they are only 16/17 years old. He gives solid advice about college, completely expresses the value and importance of a SUNY education, and pushes his students to be better every day.

I can remember vividly his teaching of Plato's Allegory of the Cave in my senior year humanities course. He was able to explain this confusing text so well that it captivated our young minds. Throughout my ancient history and philosophy courses in college, I was able to understand Plato's theorem years later when drawing on my memory of Mr. Ahlquist's explanation. He made it come alive and somehow made a text that was written over thousands of years ago relatable to us today. He also found a way of inspiring us to find a love of Shakespeare and to understand the beauty of his work, even though the first day the book was handed out half the class had doubts they would get through it. Yet within a short period of time, Mr. Ahlquist had a room of students debating the true meaning of "to be or not to be" with passion and a thorough understanding of the text and time period in which it was written.

He believes in education, and is the example of what excellent teachers are, an example of a fantastic teacher who was educated by SUNY. He believes that teaching is a symbiotic partnership, that it is a collective enterprise and journey with the student and the teacher. He

To Learn  
To Search  
To Serve

the Power of



graduated in Geneseo in '95 and to this day is inspiring the future generation through the high school and college courses he teaches today. Almost a decade later, he still is one of the top three teachers/professors I have ever had in my life. He embodies the mission of SUNY and is still giving back to his alma mater through his continued dedication to teaching.

Mr. Ahlquist is honestly one of SUNY's very finest. I am thrilled that he has won the 2013 New York State Teacher of the Year award. As the person heading up our alumni outreach, I wanted to make sure that you knew how truly amazing this particular alumnus is and the impact he has had on so many peoples' lives.

I hope you are well and thank you for reading my message about someone who motivated me so early on in my life.

Sincerely,



**Kaitlyn Beachner M.S.**

*Assistant Director for Strategic Planning*

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