

Alumna wins National Educator Award

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Jasmine Lellock '00, a sixth-year English teacher at Randolph High School, Randolph, MA, has been awarded the National Educator Award from the Milken Family Foundation. The award carries a \$25,000 prize. "Shocked and humbled," was how Lellock described her feelings as she accepted congratulatory hugs from her students following a school assembly where the award was announced. Criteria for Milken Awards are based on exceptional talent in the classroom; accomplishments outside the classroom which set examples for excellence; potential for professional and policy leadership; and the ability to motivate students, colleagues, and the community. The Foundation hopes that by recognizing and rewarding top teachers, they will remain in the profession and young people will be encouraged to become teachers. Lellock founded the Shakespeare Ensemble at Randolph High four years ago, started a mock trial team, and served as adviser to the Drama Club. She has also worked on the Randolph Scholarship Committee and the Randy Awards recognition program. An English major, Lellock was a National Merit Scholar and graduated from the Alfred University Honors Program. She also "did a tremendous amount of good work in theatre," said Dr. Becky B. Prophet, professor of theatre. "I am so excited for her for this recognition. I'm sure that a chunk of it is because of her work in Shakespeare with high school students. She's been adapting plays and directing her students in them." Lellock began teaching basic composition and British literature in Randolph in 2000. In its four years, the Shakespeare Ensemble has performed "Macbeth," "Othello," "Taming of the Shrew," and "A Midsummer Night's Dream." She received a grant from the local education fund for the group to perform "Shakespeare in the Park" at the town's gazebo. Lellock is one of two Milken Award recipients. She will receive the award and grant in May 2006 at a national education conference sponsored by the Foundation. There are no restrictions on how the money can be spent. More than 2,100 educators across the nation have received the award since its inception in 1987.