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## WESTFORD ACADEMY NAMED 2009 GLOBAL CLASSROOM AWARD WINNER

*Creative international exchange efforts of students and staff bring  
national prize to local school*

**December 22, 2008, Westford, Mass.** -- The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) honored Westford Academy this month by naming it a Global Classroom Award winner. The Global Classroom Award recognizes schools that incorporate international issues and global awareness into the school and larger community.

The cultural and student exchange programs at Westford Academy were top-rated over 50 schools nominated from around the country. The faculty and students of Westford Academy demonstrate a dedication to raising global consciousness and an enthusiasm for welcoming foreign exchange students into their student body.

“Over the years we have made global studies and international exchange a priority at our school,” said Principal James Antonelli. “Cultural understanding is so important for our students as we prepare them for a future that makes them competitive on a global scale.”

The public school features its “Westford Welcomes the World” wall with the names and pictures of over 130 international students from 38 countries who have spent a year or semester at the school. It has a “Hall of Flags” with 58 flags from all of the countries and the states of students who have studied at Westford. There is also a “Westford Visits the World” bulletin board with the names of over 1,000 Westford students who have participated in international programs of some kind. The school is proud to have an International Student Coordinator as well as a guidance counselor specifically assigned to help international students with their schedules and other issues.

As a Global Classroom Award winner, Westford Academy will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for its students to study abroad, or equivalent funds to put towards global awareness projects in the school community. In addition, a representative from the school has been invited to Hartford, Connecticut and will receive complimentary registration, accommodation and airfare to take part in the 2009 National School Conference on International Youth Exchange.

Other winners this year include Roosevelt High School in Seattle and Milwaukee School of Languages in Wisconsin.

“CSIET is pleased to bestow Westford Academy with the 2009 Global Classroom Award,” said John Hishmeh, executive director of CSIET. “The programs and activities at Westford are perfect examples of how a school community should infuse international understanding into all aspects of learning.”

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### **About the Council on Standards for International Education Travel**

CSIET is a private not-for-profit organization whose mission is to identify reputable international youth exchange programs, to provide leadership and support to the exchange and educational communities so that youth are provided with meaningful and safe international exchange experiences, and to promote the importance and educational value of international youth exchange. CSIET has been promoting international youth exchanges since 1984. For more information, visit [www.csiet.org](http://www.csiet.org).

### **2009 National School Conference on International Youth Exchange**

This conference – February 27-28, 2009 in Hartford, CT – will provide a unique opportunity for school leaders, educators and administrators to meet and network with school colleagues and leaders of various youth exchange programs. CSIET is very pleased to announce that the **Connecticut State Department of Education** and the **Capitol Region Education Council** in Hartford are joining CSIET as co-sponsors of the conference.

### **About Westford Academy**

For information, visit [www.wa.westfordk12.us](http://www.wa.westfordk12.us).

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