**AWARDS SPEECH**

**FOR**

**SCOT KAYE**

Hello everyone and welcome. It is a privilege to be here to honor distinction in education and to recognize so many capable, inspired, and enthusiastic expressions of commitment to the teaching profession. There’s an ancient saying that tells us, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. **TEACH** a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” In acknowledgement of this group of award winning educators, I would like to add that we do so much more than “teach fishing....” ...”The science teachers teach about the biology of the fish.... the history teachers can expound on the origins of the fish.... the English teachers wax poetic when guiding others to describe the fish... the math teachers make sure we know how to tell how many fish there are.... the art teachers show us how to see and immortalize the image of that fish.... As we promote education and excellence in teaching, every facet of life is enriched.

Everyone in this room knows, understands, and honors the importance of teaching. We know that your commitment to your mission to share light and knowledge is critical in the development of our children and future generations. We know now, more than ever, the necessity of receiving a strong educational foundation. The teachers we honor today set the bar higher with each gesture, lesson, and insight, and I am proud to be a part of such a vital and enthusiastic community.

The dedication you’ve exhibited is astounding and I am quite sure your unique commitment to this profession is not without its challenges. So much has been said about our work.... we’ve all heard them...expressions like offering the definition of teacher... that would be “A person who helps you solve problems you’d never have without them,” (**Wait for the laugh**). Or what about the cartoon where the school principal enters a classroom, only to observe a perfectly silent student body.... the teacher explains, “Oh them? I told them the glue sticks were lip balm.” **(Wait for the laugh**). Your busy schedules and dedication do **NOT** go unnoticed either... yes... in the teaching profession, Sunday is known as the “day of **rest**...” the **REST** of the laundry... the **REST** of the food shopping.... the **REST** of the grading and marking and course prep and...and...and... (**Wait for the laugh**).

In the words of Malala Yousafzai, “Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.” This group has demonstrated the importance and power of commitment to quality education and each one of you has contributed uniquely to the enrichment and advancement of our profession.... as I mentioned, there has been a lot said and written about us, but this group proves one not so age-old adage... “Teachers? I prefer to call you **EDUCATIONAL ROCKSTARS**!!” Thank you all!!