



Admiral
William F. Halsey, Jr.
**Health &
Public Safety**
Academy

Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent

Christopher VanVliet, Principal
Dalia Elrakaybie, Vice Principal
Michael Robel, Vice Principal
Anthony Ziobro, Vice Principal (Annex)

Dear Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy Community,

The Governor's Educator of the Year Program highlights educational innovation, student achievement, exemplary teaching, and important services outside the classroom environment that lead to student success. This celebratory program recognizes our state's best teachers and educational services professionals who will be recognized at the Union County Office of Education.

We are proud to announce that the 2019 Governor's Teacher of the Year for Adm. William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy was awarded to Mr. Cedric Jefferson. Gunnery Sergeant Jefferson initially started at Halsey as a Marine instructor in September 2011. He served at other schools for four years, both as a Marine instructor and as a Naval Science instructor, before returning to Halsey in September 2017 as a Marine instructor at the Freshman Annex, his current position. Mr. Jefferson's passion is helping kids; specifically, young adolescents. He feels this is a critical time in their lives where their decisions/choices can be blurred because of peer pressure. JROTC gives him the opportunity to impact kid's lives in a different manner than traditional classes. There, he can focus more on life skills, accountability and self-leadership. Gunnery Sergeant Jefferson would like to pursue a degree in mental health counselling where he can further his ability to help our youth. We are very proud of Gunnery Sergeant Jefferson and congratulate him on this prestigious award!

This year's Educational Service Provider of the Year for Adm. William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy was awarded to Ms. Ilona Sekiewicz. She is a former Elizabeth High School graduate who, since she can remember, always wanted to return to Elizabeth and give back to her community. Through her vast professional experiences as a permanent substitute teacher, gymnastics assistant coach, biology teacher, and, ultimately, a school counselor, Ms. Sekiewicz has developed the ability to work empathically and compassionately with students, parents, and staff.

Please join us in celebrating these two amazing professionals for the work they have done, and continue to do, for our school community and district.

Sincerely,

C. Van Vliet

Christopher Van Vliet