



# "47" Alumni Newsletter

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## Chancellor Carranza Announces 2019 Big Apple Award Winners

Schools Chancellor Richard A. Carranza today announced the winners of the seventh annual Big Apple Awards, honoring 17 exemplary New York City public school teachers. The Big Apple Awards are a citywide recognition program open to all full-time teachers in New York City public schools. This year's 17 recipients were selected from a record 7,100 nominations.

The 17 award recipients include 15 classroom teachers, one theater teacher and one adaptive physical education teacher. Over the last two weeks, Chancellor Carranza and the Deputy Chancellors surprised each of the 17 educators in their classrooms with their awards. The visits brought students and school staff together to celebrate their teachers' outstanding work.

*The Big Apple Awards* are made possible in part by private support through the Fund for Public Schools, which will provide classroom grants to all recipients. The Fund has partnered for a seventh year with Lincoln Center, which works with the Department of Education (DOE) on

several art education programs, to sponsor the Arts Education Award. The Physical Education Award is made possible with funding from New York Road Runners, a DOE partner that provides fitness and wellness programs to over 125,000 children across the City.

## Congratulations to Rita Fattorusso - one of the 17 classroom teachers to receive the "Big Apple Award"



**Rita Fattorusso** (Early Childhood Teacher, The "47" American Sign Language & English Lower School; (PS 347), Manhattan)

Rita Fattorusso teaches a Dual Language class that is comprised of Deaf students, children of Deaf adults and developing hearing children. Ms. Fattorusso provides a dynamic educational environment to all her students and ensures they leave her classroom as confident learners who are able to express themselves verbally or through sign language. As a former Deaf student in the public-school system, Ms. Fattorusso's devotion to her students is personal. She says: "I vowed that when I became a teacher, I would provide a rich learning environment for my students." Outside of the classroom, Ms. Fattorusso has played a leadership role in the school community by establishing a community pantry that serves the entire school.

**ALL SIGNS POINT TO SUCCESS!**