

Staten Island Advance

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Board of Ed rep is recipient of education honor

ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

Jerry Cammarata picked up Columbia University's Phi Delta Kappa, Educator of the Year of the Award 2000 last night during a Manhattan banquet.

Cammarata has served as Staten Island's representative to the Board of Education since 1995 and was appointed commissioner of the city Department of Youth and Community Development in July by Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani.

"This is really an honor for all involved in public education, and recognizes that all of us in the public education arena are working hard and efficiently to produce a good product," he said. "I'm very honored and it certainly gives me the challenge to want to work harder."



Cammarata

Last night's trip to Columbia University was not the New Dorp High School graduate's first. As a New Dorp senior, he won a first place medal for a dramatic reading in Italian of Dante's "Inferno" in 1963 at the Manhattan university. He said his success is really a tribute to teachers like Mrs. Farella and Mrs. Samse, who taught him Italian.

Cammarata was nominated for the award by Dr. Pola Rosen, publisher of the newspaper Education Update.

"He's creative, clear-thinking, concise. Dr. Cammarata is the kind of educator who gets the job done," said Dr. Rosen, vice president of Phi Delta Kappa.

Cammarata earned his undergraduate degree from Hofstra University and graduate degrees from Hofstra and California Coast University. He is a licensed speech/language pathologist and audiologist and the author of "The Fun Book of Fatherhood," an autobiographical account of raising his children as the result of his receiving the first paternity leave in the country.