

# Hats off to Ithaca High School teacher

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(Photo: PROVIDED PHOTO)

Ithaca High School biology teacher Carlan Gray got a standing ovation when she was honored with the 2015 Raymond C. Loehr Innovative Science Teaching Award at the Ithaca City School District convocation to begin the school year.

The award, which is managed by the Ithaca Public Education Initiative, or IPEI, was presented Tuesday at the high school by Loehr's son Stephen Yale-Loehr and Christine Sanchirico, the initiative's executive director.

Gray, a graduate of Cornell University, noted the impact local institutions of higher education have had on her teaching, as well as the importance of continued support for science education in the district and by organizations like the IPEI. Gray also said she was grateful for the wonderful people with whom she works, and who share a devotion to science and to student learning, according to a news release from IPEI.



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Ithaca High School Principal Jason Trumble nominated Gray for the honor.

"Through innovative teaching, reflective and adaptive practice, and an undeniable dedication to her profession, she has an incredible talent to engage students of all backgrounds and abilities," Trumble stated in the release. "She inspires our highest-achieving and most dedicated AP students, and also engages and motivates our struggling learners."

Ann Caren, IPEI board member and awards committee chairwoman, said Gray's dedication to her students and her leadership of the science department resulted in this recognition.

"The new high tunnel greenhouse at IHS is a perfect example of what she can accomplish," Caren said in a statement. "Not only do we have a beautiful new greenhouse, but we have a model for interdisciplinary learning that will inform the Ithaca City School District for many years."

The Loehr Award has been presented to 10 different teachers from Ithaca's elementary and secondary schools. A second award in Loehr's honor is presented each June to a student who excels in environmental science.

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