

# Walton earns teaching award



Crossroads School in Natick's Gregory Walton, right, received the 2014 Excellence in Teaching Award at the Massachusetts Association of 766 Approved Private Schools annual conference in Marlborough for his skill in teaching students who have learning and behavioral challenges. Also in the photo is: Larry Sauer (left), vice president of maaps Board of Directors and vice president of Student Program and Services Cardinal Cushing Centers Inc. Contributed photo / David Fox Photography

Posted May. 30, 2014 @ 7:30 am

NATICK

A dedicated and compassionate teacher, Gregory Walton was honored with the 2014 Excellence in Teaching award at the 2014 Annual maaps (Massachusetts Association of 766 Approved Private Schools) Conference for his skill in teaching students who have learning and behavioral challenges.

Walton, who lives in Auburn, has been a teacher at the Crossroads School in Natick for eight years, and his colleagues and students wrote several letters of praise to nominate him for the award. maaps held its annual conference at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center in Marlborough on May 16.

In his nomination letter, Crossroads Executive Director Dr. Anthony Cammilleri wrote: "Greg Walton has undoubtedly been an integral part of making Crossroads School what it is today. Greg's enormous impact on the lives of students is both meaningful and far-reaching."

Michele Brock, an educational and behavioral services coordinator at Crossroads, credits Walton for striking the delicate balance of having a friendly, humorous rapport with students while also maintaining control and respect within the classroom. He also has a knack for building up the staff around him. "He helps foster a learning environment in his classrooms for not only the students but the staff as well. "Therefore, by teaching other teachers to be like him, he is indirectly impacting the lives of students he will never meet. I feel that this is the sign of a truly great teacher," Brock wrote.

"We are very proud to honor Greg Walton for his inspiring and remarkable work," added maaps Executive Director James V. Major. "Maaps member schools teachers and staff work tirelessly to provide high-quality educational experiences to their students. Greg's devotion to teaching, to his students and to Crossroads embodies these efforts and serves as a great example to his entire profession."