

Reed City High School 2010 Distinguished Alumni



Sunshine Menezes, Ph.D

by Tonya Harrison, Assistant Principal, Reed City High School

Each year Reed City High School selects an alumnus who exhibits a resume of caliber that demands the attention of the Reed City community. For the 2009-2010 school year, Reed City Area Public Schools is honored to bestow the honor on Sunshine Menezes, Ph.D. After graduating in 1991, Dr. Menezes has gone on to lead a life where she directly impacts the lives of people in and around her community.

Sunshine Menezes completed her undergraduate work at Michigan State University. She furthered her education at the University of Rhode Island, where she earned her Masters Degree and Doctorate in Biological Oceanography. During her time at the University of Rhode Island, she participated in research initiatives in the Amazon Rain Forest. Dr. Menezes was also a science advisor in Washington, DC, for Representative Frank Pallone, a regarded environmental congressman.

Currently, Dr. Menezes is the Executive Director for the Metcalf Institute. The institute is located in the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography. The purpose of the institute is to promote scientific and environmental news. Their goal is to create a relationship between the scientific community and the members of the news media by providing opportunities for journalists in marine and environmental reporting. In addition, Dr. Menezes is the prize administrator for the Grantham Prize, the largest journalism prize in the world. The Grantham Prize is awarded for exemplary nonfiction work in the area of environmental issues.

In addition to the time Dr. Menezes spends promoting environmental awareness, she gives back to her local community of West Kingston, Rhode Island. She has helped her local government write plans for community waste and other environmental issues. Dr. Menezes is involved with HIV and cancer awareness projects and participates in charity fundraisers. She also finds time to mentor high school females in the science and environmental arena.

Dr. Sunshine Menezes clearly understands what it means to give back to her community, as she gives time and energy to local projects and the promotion of environmental awareness. Reed City High School is honored to have Dr. Sunshine Menezes named the Distinguished Alumni for 2010.