



ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR 2020-21

The Alumnus/a of the Year Award is presented annually at the Alumni Association Annual Meeting, which takes place during Reunion Weekend. This award recognizes alumni who have displayed steadfast loyalty, dedication, and service to the Academy over the past year, and who have shown an unwavering commitment to the place that meant so much to them. Candidates for this award are nominated by the Office of Advancement, and are presented to the Head of School and President of the Alumni Council for review.

This year's recipient has become a powerful ally of the Academy. His deep curiosity about Academy operations led him to seek out volunteer opportunities and share both his time and talent to best support the Academy this year. As a new member of the Alumni Council, he immediately stepped into a leadership role as the chair of the newly formed Annual Giving & Philanthropy Committee. A man who takes his volunteer work seriously, he became a champion of the Academy's giving efforts this fiscal year partnering with our Annual Fund Directors to ensure success with our Giving Day and Week of Honor efforts. To gain a strong understanding of the school's financial needs, he initiated meetings with Academy partners such as the Board of Directors Development Committee Chair, the Academy's Chief Financial Officer, our Annual Giving Directors, and the Director of GovsPLUS, to name a few. He shared what he learned with the Alumni Council, classmates and friends, and took the extra step to create a special video message for his classmates to encourage their support for The Governor's Fund. In addition to his Alumni Council responsibilities as a committee chair, he also took on a second volunteer position as a member of the Athletic Hall of Fame Committee. His

positivity this year has been contagious, and his leadership and partnership with Academy faculty and staff have set the bar high for volunteers moving forward.

In addition to his work with the Advancement Office and the Alumni Council, this year's recipient has become a champion for the Academy's GovsPlus program. GovsPLUS (Powerful Learners Unlocking Success) is a tuition-free academic enrichment program that partners The Governor's Academy with motivated middle school students from Lawrence, Massachusetts, with the goal of helping these students reach their potential inside and outside the classroom. This winter, he authored a letter supporting GovsPLUS that was sent to previous donors and he made an immediate impact with his efforts.

For his strong dedication and commitment to our school, and for his enthusiastic efforts to ensure the financial success of the Academy in a year like no other, it is my pleasure to present **the 2020-2021 Alumnus of the Year award to John T. Heald, Jr. from the Class of 1964.**

