



**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Celebration of Education Raises Money for Technology** **Groove to an Evening of Ultra Cool Jazz on May 30<sup>th</sup>!**

Renowned performer Olu Dara headlines this year's Celebration of Education, bringing his unique blend of blues, jazz and storytelling to Winchester on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Critics have called his work "stunning," noting that the cornetist has a voice reminiscent of the late Louis Armstrong. Olu Dara stamps each performance with a mixture of music and a lifetime of stories that draw his audience into a world of both complexity and joy.

"We are excited to bring a performer of this caliber to Winchester," says Nicholas D'Angelo, President of the Board of Trustees of the Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence. "We are especially pleased because funds raised at this event will support technology across the school district. Thanks to the generosity of our donors last year, WFEE was able to purchase laptop computers for teachers at McCall Middle School. We have contributed significant dollars to the wireless environment at Winchester High School. Winchester needs to keep up the momentum and bring all of our elementary schools into the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

WFEE is working to donate \$100,000 to the school system this spring; money raised will be spent on laptop computers for elementary teachers and specialists, interactive technology and LCD projectors at McCall Middle School and in support of the wireless environment at WHS. School Committee member Bob O'Connor shares D'Angelo's enthusiasm for the initiative noting, "The purchase of laptop computers for teachers at WHS and McCall have been a demonstrated success. It is about what happened in the classroom, this expansion of technology will make an immediate difference to a thousand students."

"Winchester teachers work for the excellence of the kids," says Ambrose teacher Jennifer Cataldo. Cataldo and other Ambrose teachers received laptop computers as part of the school's recent rebuilding. They say expanding that technology across the district is critical. "I take my laptop home every single night, this isn't an 8-3 job. The computers are a tool of the 21<sup>st</sup> century." Fellow teacher Annemarie Ring agrees, emphasizing that technology translates into a better classroom experience for all students. "It really unlocks the possibilities for many students, allowing us to differentiate instruction to meet each child's needs."

A highlight of the Celebration of Education each year is the recognition of individuals who personify the excellence of the Winchester public schools. Recipients of this year's Shining Star awards are: Winchester businesswoman Deborah Boyle, Winchester High School secretary Karen Branley and retiring Muraco principal Rosalie Tashjian. "Debbie Boyle is a graduate of WHS who continues to give back to the community every day through her business, Ballet Arts Centre," says D'Angelo. "Karen and Rosalie work with in the school system and, like Debbie, have made a difference in the lives of hundreds, maybe thousands, of children. The strong guidance that these three women have offered Winchester's children makes us proud to be associated with them."

Tickets to the Celebration of Education include drinks, dinner, auction and concert. They are \$250 apiece and can be obtained by calling WFEE at (781) 756-8020 or email, [www.wfee.org](http://www.wfee.org).