

Sharon Drossopoulos

Sharon Drossopoulos was a class officer, cheerleader, swim team member, and 1982 graduate of Lyman Hall High School. During her undergraduate work at the University of New Haven, Sharon completed internships at 500 Blake Street and Colony Inn Hotel, going on to earn her Bachelor of Arts in hotel and restaurant management before being recruited to Hyatt Hotels Corporate Management Training Program. Sharon spent her early career with the Hyatt group before pursuing endeavors closer to home to raise her two children, Arianna and Dimitri with her husband, Eddie.

Sharon stayed close to the hospitality industry even while raising her children. She worked at various positions, including restaurant manager at Yankee Silversmith, sales manager at Pavilion Catering, and food and beverage director at Wallingford Country Club. She also used her expertise as she volunteered at her children's school instituting the Cultural and Diversity Day Festival at Moses Y. Beach, potentially sparking her teaching career. Sharon earned certifications in family and consumer sciences and in vocational food service and embarked on a highly successful career teaching first at Sheehan and then at Lyman Hall where she is currently.

In her role as teacher of culinary arts, Sharon has earned multiple accolades, all while launching students into successful careers and teaching them the importance of giving back. A two time Wallingford Education Foundation (WEF) grant recipient, Sharon and her students have supported the WEF by hosting numerous fundraising events including a Valentine's day dinner and a farm to table dinner. She implemented the WEF funded Food Truck into the student curriculum, served a State Board of Education dinner from the Food Truck, and participated in Celebrate Wallingford with the Food Truck. Numerous pop-up shops on the town green, at HubCap and at Seasons of Celebrations all bear Sharon's indelible stamp. In addition to serving as advisor to the senior class, under Sharon's expert advisorship the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America club earned the distinguished chapter award, a state championship, and was a national chapter finalist. Other fundraising efforts spearheaded by Mrs. Drossopoulos include events that supported the Wallingford Emergency Shelter, victims of Hurricane Katrina, Houston floods, Sandy Hook families, World Central Kitchen, and over \$50,000 to help students, families and community members due to illness, injury and loss of life. Sharon and her students have had multiple appearances on Channel 8's "What's Right with Schools" segment and she guided a student to become a finalist on Rachael Ray's "Cook your way to Culinary School" segment.

It is no wonder that Sharon Drossopoulos was honored as the 2018 Lyman Hall Teacher of the Year and is now honored as a most distinguished alumna.