

2024 Presidential Honor

- *Eric Arnold* -

I have been asked to provide a few sentences on why I am not surprised that Eric Arnold is due to receive the ACA New England's presidential honor award. By way of background, I first met Eric in the parking line as I was waiting to pick my son up from Youthcare. He was directing traffic, which was going nowhere, and we struck up a conversation. We have since partnered on numerous projects at Hale, including Intrepid, Youthcare, Education, and Arts programming, a foundation I work with has provided ongoing funding, and like many others who get sucked into Eric's orbit, we became friends.

I guess I'll start by saying I'd be more surprised that he didn't receive this award! His creativity, tenacity, dedication to everything Hale stands for, as well as his dynamic leadership make him a model for an effective and transformative leader. It boggles the mind to consider the many ways that Hale has grown and expanded during his tenure. I really, truly, and honestly can't think of another camp director/Executive Director who has had a deeper and more meaningful impact on the Hale Community than Eric Arnold. Bravo for your inspired choice. **-David Vaughn, Ilene Beal Foundation**

I am not surprised that Eric is receiving the ACA New England's Presidential Honor award because he is an exemplar of commitment, innovation, and inclusion. His vision has transformed Hale Education into a national model of hands-on, outdoor learning for urban students. **-Chris Smith, Boston After School & Beyond**

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