

**THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
ALPHA UPSILON STATE**

FRIEND OF EDUCATION AWARD NOMINATION

Alpha Upsilon State recognizes the outstanding service, commitment, and important contributions made by many individuals, civic groups, organizations, businesses and corporations throughout Massachusetts to advance education and educational opportunities.

In recognition of these various contributions, Alpha Upsilon State of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, proudly offers the "Friend of Education Award".

1. Deserving individuals who are not educators (male or female), groups, or businesses may be nominated by any chapter or state committee in Alpha Upsilon State.
2. Complete the form in triplicate.
3. Send one copy to State President Lynn Howard, 1st Vice President Claire LaBonte, and the President of your chapter. Please also keep one copy for your files.

Nominee Jacalyn Stuart Bennett

Affiliation Bennett and Company

Address 45 Water Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Nominated by Dianne Swistak

Chapter Alpha Eta

Provide a Summary of no more than one page.

Please make reference to as many of the criteria as possible.

Send copies to:

- **Lynn Howard:** lynnphoward82@comcast.net
- **Claire LaBonte:** cldlabonte@charter.net
- **Your Chapter President**

Jacalyn Stuart Bennett, through a large donation, made it possible to turn an underutilized area off the gym at the Rupert A. Nock Middle School in Newburyport into a state-of-the-art wellness area for students. One room has workout equipment, and the other is dedicated to meditation and yoga. The latter includes “a decorative storage unit, artwork, yoga mats and cushions, side tables...a small waterfall and two faux living wall hangings.” There is also a stained glass window designed to bring nature into the area.

Ms. Bennett has been interested in introducing young students to the practice of mindfulness and hopes that “offering a calming, reflective area where students can relax” will promote the journey of self-discovery and being in the moment. A pair of students who had already started a yoga and mindfulness club which met after school in the library can now use the wellness center as an appropriate space in which to continue and grow.

The appropriately named Jacalyn Stuart Bennett Mindfulness and Wellness Space was opened earlier this year and may be the first of its kind in the state. (quotations are from an article in the *Daily News*)

Ms Bennett is the founder, president and head designer of Bennett and Company based in Newburyport. The company designs affordable, beautiful, and comfortable lingerie for busy, modern women using an ecologically sound manufacturing model. Their mission statement stresses the following: “Respect and value our employees and supply chain partners by giving back to the communities in which we work.”

Ms Bennett’s long-time philanthropic activities are focused on support for women and children; for example, Sarvodaya in Sri Lanka provides help and protection for women with children while they learn a trade. Along with her financial support Ms Bennett has provided sewing machines and fabric for their use.

Jacalyn Stuart Bennett is a true friend of women, children and education.