

NEWS FROM Legislator

# Lou D'Amaro



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**For Immediate Release**  
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## Walt Whitman HS Earn & Learn Program Helps Students Chart a Course for Success



*Legislator D'Amaro joins Walt Whitman High School Earn and Learn Program Founder/Advisor Jeffrey Rosmarin, far right, and students at a recent meeting.*

*(HUNTINGTON STATION, NY... December 10, 2012)* – Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) recently met with the advisor/founder and student participants from Walt Whitman High School's Earn and Learn program, a unique educational initiative that provides students with tools, skills, mentoring and incentives that will enable them to succeed throughout high school and into the future.

(more)

Created by local businessman Jefry Rosmarin in 2003 as a response to alarming national school drop-out statistics, Earn and Learn offers a work incentive and mentoring opportunity to help students improve their grades, enhance school participation and build self-esteem and other important life skills. Each student is "hired" as an "employee" and commits to specific requirements in schoolwork, behavior, attendance, and bi-weekly meetings with Mr. Rosmarin (who acts as their "employer") or another mentor.

According to Mr. Rosmarin, students learn that they must take responsibility for their actions and that there are consequences if they do not meet the Earn and Learn requirements. They quickly understand that "if you do your job, you will get paid, if you don't, someone else who is more responsible will replace them." It is a simple lesson that most adults already understand, and it helps prepare the students for a real job, he said. Students and parents sign an agreement confirming their understanding of the program's rules and regulations.

Since its inception, Earn and Learn has expanded to include seven schools and dozens of students. To date, the program has proven to be remarkably effective in motivating the students to change their behavior and improve academically.

"The Earn and Learn Program helps set students out on a path to success," said Legislator D'Amaro. "I applaud Mr. Rosmarin for developing this important initiative and thank him for his commitment to the local community. This is truly a great program that we are lucky to have at Walt Whitman High School. "

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*Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) represents the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, which includes parts of Huntington Station, South Huntington, Huntington, West Hills, Melville, Dix Hills, Deer Park, North Babylon and West Babylon. He is Chairman of the Budget & Finance committee, Vice-Chairman of the Environment, Planning & Agriculture committee, and a member of the Human Services and Public Safety committees of the Suffolk County Legislature.*