As a teacher from a diverse background himself, Mr. Rocco doesn’t just appreciate the diversity in his classroom, he embraces it. When he teaches his students about photography, he’s actually teaching them life skills and how to appreciate one another.

One of Mr. Rocco’s greatest accomplishments was launching his own non-profit, called *Photography without Borders*. In the same way that *Doctors without Borders* overlooks political boundaries, *Photography without Borders* seeks to inspire young leaders by exposing them to cultures they would not otherwise experience. The students are matched with youth in Mr. Rocco’s native Columbia. They exchange photos and letters to share the experiences of their daily life. Since the program began in 2009, some of the students have even traveled to Columbia to meet their photo pals in person.

By teaching his students to see the world through the eyes of others, Mr. Rocco is truly providing them with a life-changing experience. That amazing achievement earned him the highest honor of this award.