

2013

# EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

Monday, April 29, 2013

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*Please Note*

The *Excellence in Education* Awards Ceremony is a time to celebrate outstanding teachers and education/business partnerships and to socialize with friends and colleagues. To provide each teacher and business honoree with the dignity and recognition they deserve, we ask that you refrain from talking at your table during the awards ceremony.

*Thank you for your cooperation.*

*2013*  
**EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS**

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*Awards for*

*Anne Arundel County Public Schools  
Teacher of the Year*

*Anne Arundel County Private Schools  
Teacher of the Year*

*Anne Arundel County  
Business Partnerships of the Year*



*Excellence in Education*  
**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

*Reception/Registration - 6:00*

A time for fellowship with colleagues and friends

*Seating for Dinner - 6:30*

*Welcome & Greetings*

Brad Bell, *Maryland Reporter, ABC7/WJLA-TV*

*Master of Ceremonies*

*Dinner - 6:45*

*Awards Ceremony - 7:30*

*Honoring Educators*

Teresa Milio Birge, *Vice President, Board of Education*

Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D., *Superintendent of Schools*

David Plott, *Chairman, Board of Directors,  
Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce*

*Recognizing Excellence*

Brad Bell, *Maryland Reporter, ABC7/WJLA-TV*

Martha Gardner, *2012 Anne Arundel County Teacher of the Year*

*Presentation of the 2013 Teacher Honorees*

*2013 Public School Finalists*

Lori-Ann Balzano, *Davidsonville Elementary School*

Jennifer Bender, *Chesapeake High School*

Ruth Goldstraw, *Old Mill High School*

Christiana Grue, *Marley Middle School*

Jodie Hogan, *South River High School*

*Excellence in Education*  
**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

*2013 Private School Finalists*

Debora Coates Consugar, *The Summit School*  
Tim Decker, *Eagle Cove School*

*Promoting Partnerships*

*Presentation of Business Partnership  
Nominees and Awards*

*Presentation of the Teacher of the Year Award*

*2013 Anne Arundel County  
Private Schools Teacher of the Year*

*2013 Anne Arundel County  
Public Schools Teacher of the Year*

*Closing*





## *Anne Arundel County Public Schools Finalists*



### *Lori-Ann Balzano*

*Davidsonville Elementary School*

*"I believe a teacher is a learner first. I critically examine my pedagogical practices and beliefs constantly... to improve my own teaching. I attend professional development, collaborate with peers, read new research, question my practices, and am willing to try new things. Most importantly, through personal reflection, I refine my teaching craft on a daily basis."*

Described as a "natural educator," Lori-Ann Balzano has proven over the last 17 years that a simple love of learning is infectious. Determined to "instill a deep love of learning in students while challenging them to surpass their personal expectations," Balzano takes her role in the lives of young people seriously and personally. She easily refers to her students as her children.

"I believe (that) high expectations yield high results in the classroom," she said. "I feel that if I expect my students to do their best and work hard, they will rise to the challenge."

Setting the best example she can for her students, Balzano also demands a lot of herself. The National Board Certified teacher insists that her classroom be safe and nurturing by building a rapport with students that is sensitive to their cultural backgrounds and differences. She does not pursue a lesson without ensuring that she has considered the challenges, needs, and supports necessary for each student to receive it. She even faithfully sends out a weekly newsletter on Sundays that details the homework for the coming week, current and future instructional plans, and other necessary timely information.

"Mrs. Balzano balances love of learning and challenges each youngster to surpass his/her personal best," said Davidsonville Elementary School Principal Jean Marie Hofstetter.

The consummate educator also regularly assists her peers. She is often called upon to mentor young teachers or assist with county curricular and instructional efforts.



### *Jennifer Bender*

*Chesapeake High School*

*"Teaching is one of the most fulfilling aspects of my life. I have a passion for the content I teach and I am renewed each day through the relationships I have with my students. It remains my lifelong goal to inspire my kids to embrace themselves and recognize the value they possess."*

As a high school junior, Jennifer Bender wasn't quite sure the path she would take in life. With very little knowledge of the infinite possibilities she could pursue, her high school History teacher gave her a note that made her future clear: "You are not defined by the home you come from."

With those words and honors standings throughout college, Bender set out to become a teacher who was determined to have great impact and influence in the lives of her students. "I believe that all students can and will aspire to learn when enlightened by their possible potential; for I am living proof that one person can make a difference," she said.

Not only has Bender approached her profession with a relentless resolve to be an excellent purveyor of her content, but she has embedded herself in the Chesapeake High School community. As the equity liaison for her school, she has made it her responsibility to aggressively attack the achievement gap and promote diversity. She does this by using and analyzing data from the annual equity survey to design meaningful staff development plans for her peers. During Cougar Care Week, she facilitates insightful dialogue among the school's staff and students.

In addition to her classroom commitments, Bender has been a key contributor to making community connections for the school. Through efforts that support Harvest for the Hungry, Students Against Violence Everywhere, the Lake Shore Rotary Club, Toys for Tots, Sarah's House, and Nick's House, Bender has ignited compassion in her students.

She also serves as the advisor for the school's Students Against Destructive Decisions and Interact clubs.

## *Anne Arundel County Public Schools Finalists*



### *Ruth Goldstraw*

*Old Mill High School*

*"Through my dedication to my students, my safe and supportive classroom environment, and my constant communication with parents, I dare myself to live up to my philosophy that every student can learn."*

A former youth pastor, Ruth Goldstraw is now a minister of mathematics. As the department chair at Old Mill High School, she's combined her ability to easily relate to young people with the sheer enjoyment of teaching and guiding students to achieve.

With the implementation of quarterly Math Nights to provide extended help and remediation support for students on an individual basis, she has proven that "all students are her responsibility, even if they are not in her personal classes," said Old Mill High School Principal Jim Todd.

She takes her dedication one step further by spending countless hours working with students during her planning time and after school. Having spent more than 22 years in the classroom, Goldstraw takes the same intensely passionate approach to motivate and support her colleagues. Her achievement of National Board certification substantiates her role as a mentor.

"She leads a department of 16 educators who, under her leadership mirror her passion and desire for all students to succeed," said Todd. So diplomatic and strategic is her approach that she is known to possess the perfect balance as a leader. "Ruth plans professional development opportunities for her peers, providing them the opportunity to share and learn from each other while honoring their knowledge and expertise," Todd said.

Also acknowledged by her peers for being extremely dependable and optimistic, Goldstraw serves on several school committees, including Eliminating the Achievement Gap and Academic Steering. She also regularly participates in book studies with other educational professionals.



### *Christiana Grue*

*Marley Middle School*

*"They say that if you love your job, you never have to go to work. If that is true, I don't believe Ms. Grue has 'worked' a day in the past eight years." – Principal Kevin Buckley*

Christiana Grue represents the many physical education teachers who go beyond the fun and games of "gym" class. Understanding the unique opportunity she has to combine movement and wellness with core content areas, Grue embraces the education just as much as the physical.

"As a role model for learning and physical fitness, I have shown (my students) that being physically active and healthy can provide them with opportunities that last a lifetime," she says.

Such opportunities include relay races where students must solve math problems, sprint certain distances, and then pass batons to their classmates. The relay is symbolic of her educational journey.

"I had always been blessed with teachers who inspired me," she said. So her foray into education was inevitable and seamless. She is now the new teacher liaison at her school, helping to inspire rookie educators.

Known as the "face of Marley Middle School," Grue has made the school a popular partner for community outreach. As the organizer of the "Guys Night Out" and "Girls Night Out," she has helped to forge meaningful connections between Glen Burnie youth, their parents, and other adult mentors from Faith Baptist Church. Grue has also facilitated skate nights and other fun activities involving local businesses.

"I want the students to know that I value them, support them, and believe in them, not only academically, but also outside of school," she said.

## *Anne Arundel County Public Schools Finalists*



### *Jodie Hogan*

*South River High School*

*“Each day walking past her classroom, one hears excitement in the voices of her students; hears students eager to be called on to answer; hears students having fun; and hears students learning. It is very easy for anyone, me included, to want to be a part of that excitement...” – Principal Will Myers*

After more than 13 years of sharing her love of language, culture, and travel with her students, Jodie Hogan has brought new meaning to the term “rules of engagement.” She is revered as the resident expert at South River High School on how to create fascinating, multi-dimensional lessons that have students returning to the classroom excited to learn more.

“Ms. Hogan’s exuberance outside of the classroom, as well as her imaginative lessons, have captivated the interest of the students she teaches and engaged students in school-sponsored extracurricular activities,” said South River Foreign Language Department Chair Karen Packal. “She makes learning fun and has helped instill a sense of school pride and respect for cultural differences in our student body.”

She’s left an indelible mark on the cultural pulse of her school by surveying the student body to ensure that the many cultures of her school are celebrated throughout the school year and by hosting the annual Culturalpalooza. However, she’s also encouraged students to make marks of their own by raising funds and awareness for young people in less-advantaged countries. She even helped her Spanish III students develop a program through which they volunteer to promote literacy in Spanish at Mills-Parole Elementary School.

Gratz College was so enthralled and impressed by her steadfast dedication to and infectious enthusiasm for the teaching profession that it hired Hogan not only to be an instructor to higher-aspiring educators, but also a motivator and inspirational force. Many of her colleagues at South River High School, including an assistant principal, have benefited from the courses she’s taught through the college’s Regional Training Center.

Her efforts have not gone unnoticed. Hogan was named the Maryland Language Teacher of the Year by the Maryland Foreign Language Association in 2011. As an armed forces veteran, she has also received the County Executive’s Exemplary Women in the Military Award.



## *Anne Arundel County Private Schools Finalists*



### *Debora Coates Consugar*

*The Summit School*

*“When other teachers struggle with the occasional student who is especially tough to reach and tough to teach, Mrs. Consugar is able to reach inside his or her soul, bolster confidence and skills, and earn their trust and willingness to work, to do their best, and to believe in their ability to be competent learners.” – Head of School Dr. Joan Mele-McCarthy*

For more than 23 years, Debora Coates Consugar has energized the young people of The Summit School to enjoy math. Beyond using various methods in the classroom that keep students interested in learning, she is a perpetual resource on the subject. She’s even been caught tutoring in the hallway between classes.

“She is known as a tough, but loving teacher, one who pushes students to learn. In their personalized graduation speeches that review their years at Summit, she is one of the most often-mentioned teachers in terms of her impact on their lives,” said Head of School Dr. Joan Mele-McCarthy.

As a person with dyslexia who has overcome great obstacles to achieve even greater success, Consugar makes it a priority to ensure that her students are able to experience a similar journey of achievement. She accomplishes this simply by differentiating instruction, a technique accepted and practiced by many educators.

“...each child is unique, and students learn in different ways,” she said. “I strive to continually evaluate and critique my teaching, and then adapt and shape my teaching so that it better meets the needs of my students.”

Consugar also places great emphasis on honest and frequent communication with parents as another key component of student success. Understanding the value of a strong professional team, she also gracefully does her part by serving as a mentor to her colleagues, coordinating the summer tutoring schedule, and managing the daily carpool traffic at the school.



### *Tim Decker*

*Eagle Cove School*

*“Ask any parent, student or faculty member at Eagle Cove School who has had the biggest impact on their family’s environmental stewardship habits, and they will point to Mr. Decker and his life-changing lessons... His work has transformed Eagle Cove School.” – Head of School Laura Kang*

With an intense affinity for science and the environment, Tim Decker rightfully serves as the co-director of Eagle Cove School’s Green Team. In this role and as a master science educator, he has brought to life the key tenets of his teaching philosophy, which is based on the words of renowned conservationist Rachel Carson: “If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.”

Through efforts such as caring for and distributing 2,600 oyster shells and spat as part of the Marylanders Grow Oysters project, Decker has made a significant impact on students and the local ecosystem. He has also spearheaded the building of a greenhouse that he helps the students maintain.

And although the 17-year education veteran appears far more comfortable in the classroom and outdoors, he’s managed to transcend his eco-centric love to the stage. Each year, he co-writes, directs, and produces a green-themed student musical.

Beyond the countless contributions he’s made to Eagle Cove School, Decker has fervently spread his knowledge and talents as far away as Central America, with stops along the U.S. eastern seaboard. He’s created an environmental exchange program with the students of the Cloud Forest School in Monteverde, Costa Rica, and annually serves as a guest teacher in Baltimore. He even helped the Alain P. Locke School in Harlem, N.Y., become an environmental science magnet school by hosting its educators at Eagle Cove for tours and curriculum planning sessions.

*honorees continued*

## *Anne Arundel County Public Schools Semi-Finalists*



### *Lesley M. E. Beavers*

*George Fox Middle School*

*"Ms. Beavers is a talented teacher with a passion for student learning which results in students obtaining success they had not even imagined." – AACPS AVID Coordinator Jennifer Lombardi*

Lesley Beavers is the ultimate advocate for students. As the George Fox Middle School Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program coordinator, she assumed the challenging role to inspire and bolster young people who may not have previously considered or had examples of post-secondary opportunities. In this capacity alone she could foster great change, but Beavers has taken the aspirations of her students and made them her own.

Previously, she has intervened for a student who desired to take advanced coursework but didn't appear to qualify based on previous performance or lack of prerequisites. With her endorsement, encouragement, and simple belief in his ability, the student was allowed to take the course and earned top grades. Such advocacy changed the trajectory for the rest of that student's academic career.

The examples do not end there. Beavers listens to her students and then develops extension lessons and dedicates her time after school to respond to their desires. As a result, her students have gone on to complete honors coursework in high school and write eloquent college essays, ultimately believing they can do whatever they set their minds to do.



### *Danielle Bender*

*Mayo Elementary School*

*"Children have taught me to open my mind and my heart to the joys, the innocence, and the diversity of ideas in the world."*

All ten years of Danielle Bender's teaching career have been happily spent guiding the primary grade students at Mayo Elementary School. During that time, she has managed to lead every class, every day with the same enthusiasm for achievement. Such an attitude has resulted in 100 percent of her students performing at the proficient or advanced level on state assessments.

"She consistently sets high expectations for academic achievement while introducing innovative classroom practices based upon the needs of her students and develops outstanding classroom routines and structures that peak students' interest..." Principal Kirk Greubel said.

Beyond the classroom, Bender addresses schoolwide needs with similar vigor. Her "go-getter" approach led to the creation of the school's math facts incentive program. She has also used her talents to lead the school's Race for the Cure campaign.

## *Anne Arundel County Public Schools Semi-Finalists*



### *James Dell*

*North County High School*

*"I chose to be an art teacher because art is one of the most meaningful experiences in life. Without art there is no culture, and our society would be greatly impoverished without it. When I work with my students, I want to help them find something that is intrinsically exciting and creative. This intrinsic motivation increases their skills and awareness of their own human potential through art."*

Through his admirable skills as an educator, artist, and communicator, James Dell has also become an innovator. Interestingly, he's managed to integrate visual art into the reputable and rigorous Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) magnet program at North County High School. Just as the program itself was the first of its kind in the county, Dell has managed to add this unique component to further personalize and broaden the STEM experience for students.

"I see the important relationship between science and art that is often overlooked as we continually specialize," Dell said. "It has been inspiring to work with ninth-graders and to apply visual thinking skills to projects such as space suit design, sailboat design, and robotics."

Not only is Dell a curricular contributor to STEM, he is an active leader and prominent promoter of the program. From leading a workshop about the Fibonacci Number Series in art and math to attending STEM parent and information nights, he has made important business and community connections from which students have greatly benefitted.



### *Jessica Francis Caldwell*

*Southern Middle School*

*"What is impressive about Ms. Caldwell is that she is never satisfied with her own performance. She is constantly looking for ways to make all of her students academically successful... (our school) has an excellent mathematics department and a significant amount of the credit must be given to (her)."*  
– Principal Jason Dykstra

Recognizing the importance of engaging the technologically-savvy generation of learners now filling modern-day classrooms, Jessica FrancisCaldwell is embracing the language of her students. By "flipping" her classroom, she has found meaningful and effective ways to use technology to engage and motivate her students by recording math lessons for students to watch at home and reserving class time to answer questions and practice. With the addition of online blogging and the use of educational resources on the Web, she has found a unique balance that has allowed her to further differentiate instruction.

"The data for her classes show powerful evidence of her efforts and the value of using technology both in and out of the classroom," Principal Jason Dykstra said. "What is impressive about Ms. Caldwell is that she is never satisfied with her own performance. She is constantly looking for ways that technology can make all of her students academically successful..."

As the e-Coach at her school, FrancisCaldwell expands this role to deliver essential instructional support and staff development to her peers. "Teachers count on Ms. Caldwell to help them make their classrooms more dynamic with technology," Dykstra said.



## *Anne Arundel County Public Schools Semi-Finalists*



### *Joseph Hershfeldt*

*Northeast High School*

*"Every work of art that is created allows my students to include a part of themselves. When creating work inspired by other artists or cultures, students are encouraged to relate their newly acquired knowledge to their own experiences and have that reflected in their work. This not only makes their work more personal, but it also allows me to learn about the lives of my students and foster stronger relationships with them, which is the key to student engagement and achievement."*

Creating a sense of community is the key to Joseph Hershfeldt's successful tenure at Northeast High School. While many of his colleagues will cite his talent and work ethic as contributing factors to his success, Hershfeldt believes that he is simply playing his part as a member of the school's family – a role he values and takes very seriously.

"... in order to facilitate success in today's schools, a teacher must serve multiple roles and embrace various responsibilities," Hershfeldt said. Hence, he is not only a special education teacher at the school, but also serves as the schoolwide technology trainer, indoor and outdoor track coach, and school coach for the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program.

In each capacity, he has been able to have a direct impact on the climate of the school. From increasing the performance of special needs students on the Biology High School Assessment, to reducing the number of behavior referrals, to organizing outreach efforts for those less fortunate, Hershfeldt has helped create much more than a sense of community.



### *Amy Kostelnik-Insley*

*Jones Elementary School*

*"She is the type of educator that all administrators desire to have in their buildings; that parents dream of for their children; and that children hope they are lucky enough to spend their days learning from."*  
– Principal Sara Pickens

Despite 22 years of teaching hundreds of primary-grade students, Amy Kostelnik-Insley manages to always bring a fresh approach to her classroom. She puts a lot of effort into planning annual themes that will incorporate her basic philosophy about guiding and instructing our youngest learners.

"... teaching should incorporate discovery, adventure, high expectations, and joy. Not all classes are the same. So I begin each year as if it is my first year teaching," Kostelnik-Insley said.

The former Fort Knox (Kentucky) Teacher of the Year and Baltimore County Award of Excellence winner has obviously found a winning combination of skills and practices to affect her students and peers.

## *Anne Arundel County Public Schools Semi-Finalists*



### *Allison Kuta*

*Meade Middle School*

*"Art is powerful. My class allows students to express themselves and learn about themselves in a way that is otherwise impossible. It is our responsibility as educators to provide a fulfilling educational experience and arts classes can provide much integrity in this process."*

Allison Kuta has endured the path of many young educators who have met the challenge to find their unique balance of skills, demeanor, and resources that work best for them to be influential in the classroom. Kuta's obstacles along the way included working part-time at a cafe while she completed her master's degree.

Her perseverance and tenacity not only paid off her tuition, but also provided her with the final key to her professional puzzle. With the same vigor that she pursued her studies, she has been instrumental in helping to integrate arts into the core curriculum at Meade Middle School.

Because of her efforts, her students are thriving. As an example, their work has been featured at the Maryland State House. Kuta also leads by example; she was recently honored by Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for designing a logo for the Warrior Transition Brigade.



### *Stacy Langhirt*

*Severna Park Elementary School*

*"As an educator and parent, I believe that children should be treated as intelligent human beings that have something to contribute to the educational process."*

It is all about the approach for Stacy Langhirt. When it comes to the single most important factor by which her students will learn, she deliberately plans a strategy to set the proper tone of caring and respect in her classroom.

"(Students) are not 'blank slates' that we are trying to inscribe with knowledge. They come to school with so many valuable experiences that are shaping and enriching their lives," Langhirt said. "Educators have to recognize this and work to incorporate it into their classrooms; to allow children to share appropriate experiences and build upon them when possible."

While her philosophy is all-encompassing, she knows that she must employ a myriad of resources to reach her students on an individual level. For this reason, she is known to enthusiastically incorporate the use of technology into her lessons. She is also recognized as a leader in implementing the Common Core Standards in her building.



## *Anne Arundel County Public Schools Semi-Finalists*



### *Jenna Lerro*

*Annapolis Middle School*

*“... there is an urgency in education in order to close the achievement gap and create equality in our country. The only way I can effect change is to help my students not only learn to be effective readers and writers but to be knowledgeable, responsible citizens of the world.”*

Jenna Lerro has managed to become a leader as part of the Annapolis Middle School International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme, complete the distinguished AACPS Leadership Development Institute, and be recognized by the Board of Education as a countywide Educator of the Month – all within five years of becoming a professional teacher. Her apparent dedication is known and appreciated. Yet the accolades are not her motivation.

“Mahatma Gandhi said, ‘You must be the change you want to see in the world.’ I truly believe these words, and it is why I always wanted to have the most powerful job in the world... to be a teacher,” Lerro said.

Having taught in Costa Rica, Spain, and New Jersey, she has indeed had a worldly influence. Whether it’s keeping in touch with a student’s athletic coach, visiting a student’s home, writing grants to pay for field trips, or helping former students with their college essays, Lerro finds ways to use all of her talents to support the Annapolis Middle School community and beyond.



### *Amy Miller*

*Linthicum Elementary School*

*“As an educator, I value the rewards that I receive from my students’ love for learning.”*

As a 14-year education veteran, Amy Miller is many things to many people at Linthicum Elementary School. She brings new meaning to the word “leader” as the school’s Science Lead Teacher, Science Fair Chair, Mathematics Chair, and Grade Group Chair. She also finds time to sponsor two extracurricular activities, the Mad Science and 24 Game clubs, and heads the Green School Committee.

And while Miller’s myriad of responsibilities could seem overwhelming to some, she simply believes it is her duty. “Teachers play an important role in students’ lives as we wear multiple hats...,” Miller said. With such resolve, it is no wonder that she handles each task with intense dedication.

She has been described by her colleagues as energetic, dynamic, collaborative, loyal, and innovative. Despite the many roles she plays, there is a consensus about what she means to her school community: she’s irreplaceable.

## *Anne Arundel County Public Schools Semi-Finalists*



### *Denise Peach*

*Marley Glen School*

*"It would be very easy for Denise to come to work every day and lead her classes, and she would be successful. But Denise is more concerned about her students' success; as such she seeks out ways to help develop skills that go beyond art, and often beyond the walls of Marley Glen." – Principal Ronald Chesek*

Denise Peach is known as a remarkable art teacher because of the impact she has had on her students at Marley Glen School, where students with severe intellectual disabilities are nurtured and educated. Through Peach's influence, her students' work has been displayed at many countywide art exhibits.

Interestingly, her gardening skills have also garnered recognition. Through the development of a sensory garden, the creation of the school's Garden Club, and design of an ecology class, she shares her personal passion with all of the school's students. Her green efforts led to the school's achievement as a Maryland Green School.

"Our entire school, inside and out, has become our art, nature, and science classroom. And I believe that is the way school should be," Peach said.



### *Michael Philip*

*Severna Park Middle School*

*"I see my students as the future leaders that they will become, and I challenge them daily to become better problem solvers, team members, and leaders. I want them to be better off for having me as a teacher..."*

Throughout his 17-year career as a teacher, there is very little that Michael Philip has taken for granted. Appreciation is a major component of his teaching philosophy. By simply being grateful for the people, opportunities, and resources that have been afforded to him and his students, Philip has become one of the truly appreciated among the Severna Park Middle School community.

"I, as a teenager, did not appreciate all that my parents sacrificed and did for me just to make my life better. This is a theme that I preach to my students," the eighth-grade science teacher said. To further show how much he values his students Philip does something simple: "I greet my students with a smile and a 'high-five' as they enter my classroom, and I smile and thank them as they leave."

As leader of the school's Green School Committee and adviser for the Environmental Science Club, he has also passed along an eco-friendly awareness. "Living in Maryland is a gift, and I want my students to know just how lucky they are to live so close to the Chesapeake Bay... this creates a unique responsibility to be good stewards," Philip said.

## *Anne Arundel County Private Schools Teacher Semi-Finalists*



### *Ellen Stanton*

*St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School*

*"As the poet Robert Frost said, 'I am an awakener.' Second grade is an awakening time, and as a second-grade teacher, I am there at the dawn."*

According to her colleagues, Ellen Stanton has reached "legendary status at St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School because of her 'calm and purposeful leadership.'" For more than 22 years, she has inspired the school's young people to celebrate their talents and demonstrate their gifts. Increasing their confidence with every lesson learned, her students are promoted to the next grade – prepared, persistent, positive, patient, and polite.

Stanton also uses her skills as a mentor to new and seasoned educators alike. She serves as the school's division leader for grades 1 through 4, collaborates with other teachers on various subjects, and oversees the outdoors education program for the primary grades. She was also an integral player in the development of the current elementary school curriculum, which was established upon the school's recent expansion.

Beyond her personal community contributions, such as being a Girl Scouts troop leader, "fostering empathy for others" is a part of her educational philosophy. Such emphasis led to her second-graders writing persuasive appeals and making posters to launch a schoolwide campaign that collected more than 5,000 paper products and supplies for the families of Sarah's House.



### *Renee Tobin*

*Archbishop Spalding High School*

*"The mentoring and guidance I provide while they (students) are in the formative high school years is equally as important as the subjects (that) I teach... I have been at (Spalding) long enough to see students graduate... as inspiring young people and return... as mature, fine adults. It is rewarding to see who they become."*

Holding true to Archbishop Spalding High School's mission to "challenge students to grow spiritually, academically, physically, and socially," Renee Tobin has built a solid reputation as a consummate visual arts educator and go-to counselor for her peers and students.

One of her students recently wrote, "No teacher can guide students to self-discover like she can." Such sentiment is a testament to the great value she places on making sure that advanced and novice visual arts learners alike are productive in the art process.

"Productivity and self-satisfaction inspire self-esteem, which energizes self-motivation," Tobin said. "Students see they can be productive and leave a mark that is contributory, remarkable, and remembered." Tobin has been previously honored as the Outstanding Teacher of the Year (private school category) by the Maryland Art Educators Association and Outstanding High School Art Teacher by the highly-reputable Savannah College of Art and Design.



# *Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher Nominees*



## *Michele Agnes*

*George T. Cromwell Elementary School*

**Grades:** 1-5

**Subject:** Reading

**Teaching Experience:** 22

*"In order for a school to be successful in educating students, several factors are important. The school must have a strong vision that guides it to what it will become. I have always believed the vision must be clear, include high standards for learning, and be shared by all. Achievement for all students is paramount to all that we do in our schools."*



## *Denise Augustine*

*Central Elementary School*

**Grade:** Elementary

**Subject:** Library Media

**Teaching Experience:** 8

*"I love being a media specialist and there is not a day that goes by that I do not feel extremely fortunate. I bring this enthusiasm and my philosophy into my teaching every day. It involves a passionate love for the job and the ability to listen and make students feel like they matter."*



## *Rachael Brazier*

*Marley Elementary School*

**Grade:** Kindergarten

**Subject:** Early Childhood

**Teaching Experience:** 6

*"Each morning, students are cheerfully greeted and the new haircuts and missing teeth are no less important than the homework folder... When they stop to tell me a less obvious new or exciting event that has happened, it's because they know that I will be equally excited for them. I don't give them the opportunity to wonder how I feel about them. They know I care because I tell them."*



## *Lisa Burns*

*Deale Elementary School*

**Grades:** K-5

**Subject:** Music

**Teaching Experience:** 25

*"...becoming a parent... has shaped the way I approach my position as a teacher. This parental point-of-view has allowed me to better see each of my students as their parents would. The knowledge that these parents entrusted me with their child's musical development is not one that I take lightly."*



## *Taryn Carter*

*Severn Elementary School*

**Grade:** Kindergarten

**Subject:** Early Childhood

**Teaching Experience:** 12

*"I am on a quest for learning and have a desire to be the best of the best. I want the same for my students, so I provide parents with a prescription for success for their children. We achieve together."*

# *Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher Nominees*



*Jaime Cooper*

*Corkran Middle School*

**Grade: 8**

**Subject: Mathematics**

**Teaching Experience: 9**

*"One of the most important aspects of education is instilling in my students that they matter in this world and in my classroom... The more I focus on my relationships with students, the higher they tend to achieve."*



*Jason Fahie*

*Frank Hebron-Harman Elementary School*

**Grades: K-5**

**Subject: Physical Education**

**Teaching Experience: 8**

*"I know the feeling of being the student that the teacher doesn't know or is always mispronouncing your name. I pride myself in learning more about my students than just their first and last names. My hope is that (they) will one day look back and appreciate the time that I did invest to get to know them..."*



*Laura Fritts*

*Crofton Elementary School*

**Grade: 5**

**Subject: Elementary**

**Teaching Experience: 8**

*"To reinforce to students that I care about them and pay attention when they talk to me, I gear my instruction around their interests and the things that excite them, incorporating a little bit of each student into as many parts of a lesson as possible."*



*Kevin Garner*

*Severn River Middle School*

**Grade: 8**

**Subject: Science**

**Teaching Experience: 6**

*"I must set high standards for myself. I must be proficient in my content areas, as well as constantly assessing my performance and student reaction to the same... It is my responsibility to continue my learning within my content area, as well as the changing field of education. As a teacher, I will never stop learning."*



*Judy Garrett*

*Windsor Farm Elementary School*

**Grade: Kindergarten**

**Subject: Early Childhood**

**Teaching Experience: 32**

*"As a teacher, the following quote by Emma Goldman reflects a core principle: 'No one has yet fully realized the wealth of sympathy, kindness, and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true educator should be to unlock that treasure.'"*



# *Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher Nominees*



*Susan Grieve*

*Folger McKinsey Elementary School*

**Grade:** 5

**Subject:** Math/Social Studies

**Teaching Experience:** 27

*"... using the word REACH as an acronym describes... my framework for instructional decisions... Relevant Engaging Accepting Challenging Hands-on... My goal as a teacher has been to reach each student in a positive, encouraging way to bring out their personal best efforts and accomplishments."*



*Lauren Harman*

*Arnold Elementary School*

**Grade:** 4

**Subject:** Elementary

**Teaching Experience:** 6

*"I cannot celebrate my successes without acknowledging my team which includes colleagues, community members, and most importantly – students... Within my collegial team, I serve as the cheerleader... with community members, my role is a hostess... my role on the student team is a facilitator."*



*Dionne Harris*

*Broadneck High School*

**Grades:** 9-12

**Subject:** English

**Teaching Experience:** 16

*"Challenge. Encourage. Lead. Inspire. Teach. You simply can't champion a village without them."*



*Joanie Herget*

*Rippling Woods Elementary School*

**Grade:** 5

**Subject:** Mathematics

**Teaching Experience:** 6

*"My expectation of my teaching and of my students learning is that it never ends. We cannot settle for the bare minimum. Once students reach a certain level of success, it's my job to make sure they are ready to 'run' towards that next level of achievement..."*



*Christopher Kick*

*Central Middle School*

**Grade:** 8

**Subject:** Language Arts

**Teaching Experience:** 15

*"Rigor is like a relationship — you have to know when to move it forward and when to ease off. Knowing when to push or move forward with students is very important or, like the relationship, you will lose them."*

# *Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher Nominees*



*Kimberley Malley*

*Odenton Elementary School*

**Grade:** 3

**Subject:** Elementary

**Teaching Experience:** 28

*"My role as the teacher is to guide students to information rather than provide them with the answers... They are each encouraged to do their best every day in a caring, secure surrounding where mistakes are part of the learning process."*



*Jessica Meredith*

*Folger McKinsey Elementary School*

**Grade:** 1

**Subject:** Elementary

**Teaching Experience:** 6

*"I have several goals for students. The first is that they feel safe and happy... The next goal is to develop and nurture a love of learning... The third goal is to (get every student to) always work to be the best he/she can be... Each of these goals work in symphony to create a classroom full of eager, knowledgeable, and determined young minds... I am honored to say that I am able to have a role in this incredible process."*



*Amy Nelson*

*Folger McKinsey Elementary School*

**Grade:** 3

**Subject:** Language Arts

**Teaching Experience:** 10

*"Teaching is not without its struggles, but the belief that I can make a difference in the lives of young people enables me to overcome any obstacle. The reward I receive from teaching has nothing to do with money and everything to do with the smiles, hugs, kind notes, and friendly words from the students and families I am lucky to work with each day."*



*Pamela Nicewarner*

*Folger McKinsey Elementary School*

**Grade:** Kindergarten

**Subject:** Early Childhood

**Teaching Experience:** 6

*"...when a student succeeds in front of your eyes, it is truly amazing. As a kindergarten teacher I get to see it every day. I have had the opportunity to watch my students be successful not only in my grade, but throughout their elementary education."*



*Sarah Peterson*

*Brooklyn Park Elementary School*

**Grades:** K-5

**Subject:** Music

**Teaching Experience:** 5

*"...music education improves the quality of life for a child, and I strive to enhance that quality of life every day... I have shared many of my own experiences as a vocal performer with my classes to show them how keeping music in their lives can open up a world of opportunities to travel, learn about cultures, and see how the world truly is unified through music."*

# *Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher Nominees*



*Renae Pomycala*

*George Fox Middle School*

**Grade: 6**

**Subject: Language Arts**

**Teaching Experience: 29**

*"Students deserve the very best, and it is my job to make sure they have a teacher who works hard to provide them with everything they need to get excited about becoming lifelong learners..."*



*Lindsey Poro*

*Richard Henry Lee Elementary School*

**Grade: 1**

**Subject: Elementary**

**Teaching Experience: 7**

*"My teaching philosophy... in a few simple words: consistency, versatility, and ingenuity... Maintaining fairness with classroom management, attending professional development, and regular, honest communication are many ways that (I show) my consistency... Continued flexibility and adaptability will lead to happy, active, successful learners. A cunning and imaginative teacher will enhance the experience of any learner."*



*Jessica Riley*

*Crofton Middle School*

**Grade: 8**

**Subject: Language Arts**

**Teaching Experience: 11**

*"...I continue to love teaching for the same reasons I dreamed of being a teacher as a little girl. The thrill of watching my students have an 'aha' moment during a lesson, getting to know my students personally and academically and continuing to challenge myself to be the best teacher that I can be for all of my students makes being a teacher my dream career."*



*Tyler Shores*

*Mary E. Moss Academy*

**Grades: 9 & 10**

**Subject: Social Studies**

**Teaching Experience: 10**

*"I see myself as a student of teaching. I approach each day with an open mind believing that I did a good job teaching yesterday, but I can learn to do a better job today."*



*Marjorie Smith*

*Shipley's Choice Elementary School*

**Grade: 1**

**Subject: Elementary**

**Teaching Experience: 39**

*"The challenges of teaching today's learner change, but the rewards of the 'aha' moments are truly priceless. Past students are doctors, nurses, engineers, and teachers. I have sent them to the future and am proud of their achievements. My small part of that process is my passion and joy. Our future is in good hands thanks to dedicated educators."*



# *Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher Nominees*



## *Shauna Snidow*

*Annapolis Middle School*

**Grade: 8**

**Subject: Science**

**Teaching Experience: 10**

*"I am a much different teacher today than I was 10 years ago. I accept change and continuously reflect on the way I teach. I don't teach the same lesson twice. Most importantly, I work hard to build positive relationships with my students. I use humor, I act silly, I make mistakes. I hold students accountable, but don't hold it against them. In doing so, I hope that they adopt my passion for learning."*



## *Mandy Steiner*

*Glen Burnie High School*

**Grades: 9-12**

**Subjects: English, Theater**

**Teaching Experience: 7**

*"A teacher has the ability to shape the future, and I teach every day to share in each student's triumphs and inspire them to follow their dreams."*



## *Robin Luda*

*West Meade Early Education Center*

**Grade: Kindergarten**

**Subject: Early Childhood**

**Teaching Experience: 13**

*"I was lucky to have teachers that inspired me when inspiration was hard to be found... I consider coming to work every day a privilege. I have passion for education, and it is my desire to become that inspiration to my students."*



## *Bradford Sweet*

*Lindale Middle School*

**Grades: 6-8**

**Subject: Technology Education**

**Teaching Experience: 5**

*"I am a teaching artist who sculpts birdhouses of homes, often capturing memories that have transformed into...legacies. Like the birds that find refuge, safety, and confidence in my sculptures, I attempt to provide a safe place in which to teach ... the young how to build their nest for the future and give them the skills and courage they need to fly."*



## *Hilary Thompson*

*Old Mill Middle School North*

**Grade: 6**

**Subject: Social Studies**

**Teaching Experience: 14**

*"It is part of our job as educators to respect not only the end product, but the journey students take to get there. Students should not be embarrassed or penalized for their missteps, but encouraged to be tenacious learners who can and will ultimately meet with success, given the right encouragement and environment."*

# *Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher Nominees*



*Michelle Williams*

*Wiley H. Bates Middle School*

*Grade: 8*

*Subject: Language Arts*

*Teaching Experience: 6*

*“...my teaching stance is defined by a humble eagerness to share my love of learning with my students and colleagues... John Steinbeck said that, ‘Teaching might even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit.’ I understand what a privilege it is to be an educator.”*



## Business Partnership Awards

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### BUSINESSES UNDER 50 EMPLOYEES

#### *Ci Ci's Pizza*

*Jesse Ogenekaro*

*Nominated by: Bernard Edwards, Marley Middle School*

Jesse has formed an excellent repertoire with the students at Marley Middle School. Each week for the past four years, he has met with students to listen to their goals and aspirations while discussing what qualities will help them be successful in the future. He also provides food for the students and faculty and for community events held at the school. Marley Middle School is very appreciative of the time, effort, and resources that Cici's Pizza provides.

#### *Dayspring Presbyterian Church*

*Audrey Menard*

*Nominated by: Jillian Fleshman, Hilltop Elementary School*

After learning about the large population of non-English speaking families at Hilltop Elementary School, Dayspring initiated a program to teach conversational English to family members and other members of the community. In addition to this popular program, they provide child care for the students, and financial assistance for text books. They provide the program free of charge to the students. This program creates a stronger school-family partnership which results in greater academic success.

#### *International Management and Capacity Development*

*Raymond Terry, Sr. and Raymond Terry, Jr.*

*Nominated by: Sherri Billheimer, Arundel High School*

The co-founders of International Management and Capacity Development, Ray Terry and Raymond Terry Jr., have helped build and sustain Arundel High School's Signature Program, "Community Development and Global Citizenship." Ray Terry, Jr. also currently serves as Arundel's Integrated Community Stakeholder Team Chairperson. They truly believe in giving back to today's children so that they can be productive citizens of the 21st century.

#### *Middleton & Meads Co., Inc.*

*Neil Middleton*

*Nominated by: Adam Shienhorn and Jerry Kepich, Center of Applied Technology North*

Middleton & Meads Company is a local truck service company with a respected history in the transportation industry. They established a partnership with the Diesel Power Technology and Collision Refinishing programs at Center of Applied Technology North eight years ago. The employees volunteer an average of 40 hours a week participating in open houses, program advisory committee meetings, mock job interviews, job shadowing, Skills USA Competitions, Curriculum Content Advisement, and more. Their involvement is very much appreciated at Center of Applied Technology North.

## Business Partnership Awards

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### *SW Complete*

**Michele Moore**

*Nominated by: Michele Devine, Chesapeake High School*

Michele has a steadfast dedication to the students of Chesapeake High School. She has been a valuable asset to Chesapeake High while serving as the President of the Chesapeake PTSA, Vice President of the Chesapeake Business Advisory Board, Co-chair of the Signature Integrated Community Stakeholder Team, and a volunteer for the Drama Department. Michele and her company are known for their generosity and willingness to help wherever needed.

### *Walnut Hill Landscape Company*

**Mike Prokopchak**

*Nominated by: Jason Otte and Jesse Mitchell, Windsor Farm Elementary*

At the request of the a grade letter writing campaign, Walnut Hill Landscape Company answered the call to provide more shade to the lower playground. The fifth grade class participated in the planning, planting, and maintenance of the new trees to learn how the environment is impacted by the planting and growth of trees. Walnut Hill Landscape Company also provides landscaping supplies and manpower for the landscaping bedding around the school while educating the students on landscape design, soil runoff, and soil quality. Walnut Hill Landscape Company has also been actively involved in donations to raise funds for Windsor Farm.

## Business Partnership Awards

### BUSINESSES OVER 50 EMPLOYEES

#### *Booz Allen Hamilton*

**Regina White**

*Nominated by: Sharon Stratton & Frederick Rivers, Arundel High School*

At Booz Allen Hamilton they believe that time is often the most valuable contribution people make to help a community. This is why they have participated in a variety of community service initiatives. Their latest initiative is the 360 Mentoring Program in partnership with i5 Church in Odenton. The program involves mentors meeting with twenty male students for three hours a week. The goals of the program are to improve the overall GPA, increase communication skills, establish and maintain healthy relationships with mentors, improve conflict resolution skills, and prepare participants for overall educational and personal success.

#### *Chick-fil-A, Glen Burnie Towne Center*

**Tamie Frye**

*Nominated by: George Lindley, Lindale Middle*

Lindale Middle School can always count on Chick-fil-A to go above and beyond in supporting their school. They support “Stuff the Truck” - an annual event to support the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. The Chick-fil-A mascot cheers the teachers, community and students on as they collect food. Chick-fil-A also celebrates student achievement by providing meal coupons to the students who make the honor roll. They also sponsor a fundraising night for the school.

#### *Dave and Buster's*

**Bob Haney**

*Nominated by: Heather Wallace, Freetown Elementary*

Dave and Buster's has partnered with Freetown Elementary School for the last two years by providing complimentary game cards and a bowling night with dinner for the students of the Starfish Mentoring Program. The Starfish Mentoring Program focuses on providing a role model and one-on-one nurturing relations which promotes social, emotional, and/or academic encouragement for at-risk students. Hats off to Dave and Buster's for providing a memorable experience for all the deserving students.

#### *Outback Steakhouse, Glen Burnie*

**Randy Rinker**

*Nominated by: Darryl Gonzalez, North County High School*

Outback Steakhouse generously provides \$1,000 scholarships to North County graduating seniors who have met certain criteria. Outback graciously holds a lunch at the restaurant where all proceeds are put into the scholarship fund. They also provide food for the Honor Roll breakfasts. In addition, Randy Rinker sits on the Scholarship Selection Committee and the North County Business Advisory Board. Outback Steakhouse's involvement at North County has had a positive effect on student achievement.

## *Business Partnership Awards*

### *PowerBar Team Elite*

***Carol Boyer***

*Nominated by: Northeast High School*

Carol Boyer worked tirelessly for the successful kickoff of Northeast High School's Signature Campaign, Human Performance. She brings her expertise in the field of health and human performance in a variety of ways. She has been instrumental in developing representation from over 40 business partners from healthcare, business and industry, government, and non-profit agencies. In addition to serving as Chairperson of the Signature Program, she secures sponsorships, conducts the business expo, recruits new members, and secures instructors and speakers.

### *Under Armour*

***Jody Giles***

*Nominated by: JoAnne Brack, Severna Park High School*

Jody Giles has been a driving force in the development of Severna Park High School's Signature Program, "Business, Innovation, and Leadership." Jody delivered a dynamic keynote address which spoke of creating an environment that breeds innovation and leadership setting the stage for an amazing partnership with Under Armour. Jody also developed a new Signature Exploration I course. He spent nine months working with ICST developing the course objectives, seven modules, and content for the course. In addition he actively participated in monthly meetings, presented the Signature Program to two thousand students, and provided a field trip for teachers.

*Excellence in Education*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## *Judges for the 2013 Teacher of the Year*

Richard Benfer, *President of the Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County*

Laura Groo, *2011 Anne Arundel County Public School Teacher of the Year, and  
2011 Maryland State Public School Finalist*

Marilyn Hartzell, *Chesapeake High School Student*

Maria Lebow, *Relations Manager, Sun Trust Bank*

Sarah Lilly, *Chesapeake High School Student*

Sean McElhaney, *Principal, Old Mill Middle School North*

Erin Sullivan, *2010 Anne Arundel County Public School Teacher of the Year*

Dr. Jane Snider, *Founder of The Summit School, Chairperson of the  
Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce Education Committee*

Dr. Diana Strohecker, *Principal, Nantucket Elementary School*

## *Judges for the 2013 Business Partnership Awards*

Lise Foran, *Anne Arundel County Public Schools*

David Reilly, *Reilly Benefits*

Chuck Yocum, *Anne Arundel County Public Schools*

*\* Please note: Any judge who has worked with or been taught by a nominee in the last three years was recused from judging that nominee.*



*Excellence in Education*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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*A special Thank You to our generous gift bag donors:*

1st Mariner Bank	Lancome
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A&G Management Company	Living Health
Annapolis Symphony Orchestra	Medieval Times
Anne Arundel Community College	Menchie's Annapolis Towne Centre
Anne Arundel Health Systems	Minuteman Press Crofton
Arundel Golf Park	My Favorite Muffin
ATI Physical Therapy	NOAA Federal
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra	North Arundel County
Banner's Hallmark	Alumnae Chapter
Barbara A. Frush,	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
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Eccentrics Spa Sanctuary, Odenton	The Rams Head Group
Elements Therapeutic Massage	The Rose Group –
Estee Lauder	Applebee's Annapolis
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Four Points Sheraton BWI	University Instructors Inc.
Four Point Season's Grille	University of Maryland College
Godiva Chocolate Annapolis Mall	Agriculture and Natural Resource
Gordon Biersch	Whole Yoga & Pilates
Hair Cuttery, Edgewater	Yankee Candle Marley Station Mall

*The Excellence in Education Committee would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the following people for their time, talents, energy, and support of this event and tonight's program:*

*Chamber of Commerce staff*

*Education Committee members*

*2013 Judging Panel*

*Don Cramer and the AACPS Design and Print team*

*AACPS Development Office*

*The AACPS Public Information Office team*

*We are very grateful for their dedication to the educators of Anne Arundel County.*

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# *Former AACPS Teachers of the Year*

**1986-87** *(also Maryland Finalist)*

Richard Wiles, Physical Education Teacher  
Millersville ES

**1987-88**

Penny Vahsen, Science Teacher  
Magothy River MS

**1988-89**

*(also Maryland Teacher of the Year - 1990)*

Patricia Neidhardt, Science Teacher  
Broadneck HS

**1989-90**

Art Smelkinson, Drama Teacher  
Old Mill HS

**1990-91** *(also Maryland Finalist)*

Olin Yoder, Art Teacher  
Meade HS

**1991-92** *(also Maryland Finalist)*

Virginia Crespo, Social Studies Teacher  
Broadneck HS

**1992-93** *(also Maryland Finalist)*

Jane Daugherty, Music Teacher  
Broadneck HS

**1993-94**

*(also Maryland Teacher of the Year - 1995)*

Linda Adamson, Elementary Teacher  
Mayo ES and Jessup ES

**1994-95**

Thomas Cordts, Physical Education Teacher  
Windsor Farm ES

**1995-96**

Kandace Chase, Special Education Teacher  
Ruth Eason School

**1996-97** *(also Maryland Finalist)*

Priscilla Ward, Pre-K Teacher  
Germantown ES

**1997-98**

Bruce Villwock, Physical Education Teacher  
Broadneck HS

**1998-99** *(also Maryland Finalist)*

Diane Gerrior, Instrumental Music Teacher  
Severn River MS

**1999-00**

Denise Levitine, Art Teacher  
Piney Orchard ES

**2000-01**

Anthony Berard, Social Studies Teacher  
Glen Burnie HS

**2001-02**

Mattie Procaccini, English Teacher  
Old Mill HS

**2002-03**

André Jones, Social Studies Teacher  
Severna Park MS

**2003-04**

Michael Bell, Art Teacher  
Southern HS

**2004-05**

Walter "Skip" Lee  
Physical Education Teacher  
Chesapeake HS

**2005-06** *(also Maryland Finalist)*

Susan Casler, Language Arts Teacher  
Crofton MS

**2006-07** *(also Maryland Finalist)*

Alicia Appel, English Teacher  
Southern HS

**2007-08**

Clayton Culp, Mathematics Teacher  
Broadneck HS

**2008-09**

Donna McCallister, Language Arts Teacher  
George Fox MS

**2009-10**

Erin Sullivan, ESOL Teacher  
Glen Burnie HS

**2010-11** *(also Maryland Finalist)*

Laura Groo, Language Arts Teacher  
Southern MS

**2011-12**

Martha Gardner, Elementary Teacher  
Belvedere ES