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# *2019 Excellence in Education Awards*

Thursday, April 25, 2019

BWI Airport Marriott, Linthicum Heights, Maryland





2019  
*Excellence in Education Awards*

Anne Arundel County Public Schools  
Teacher of the Year

Anne Arundel County Independent Schools  
Teacher of the Year

Anne Arundel County  
Business Partnerships of the Year



*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.*



Excellence in Education

# *Program Schedule*

*Reception — 5:30 – 6:15*

A time for fellowship with colleagues and friends

*Registration — 6:00*

*Seating for Dinner — 6:15*

Program begins at 6:35

*Welcome & Teacher Processional*

Aziz Abdur-Raof, Master of Ceremonies

Heather Carnaghan, 2018 AACPS Teacher of the Year

*Dinner*

*Awards Ceremony*

Ray Streib, President, 21st Century Education Foundation

Terry Gilleland, President, Board of Education

George Arlotto, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

*2019 Teacher Honorees*

*Promoting Partnerships*

Presentation of Business Partnership

Nominees and Awards

*2019 Semi-Finalists*



Excellence in Education

# *Program Schedule*

## *2019 Independent Schools Finalists*

Keya Belt Robinson, *St. Martin's Lutheran School*  
Ellen Bernagozzi Smith, *St. Mary's High School*

## *2019 Public Schools Finalists*

Aundrea Atwood-Starkey, *Southern High School*  
Teresa Beilstein, *South Shore Elementary School*  
David Britton, *Magothy River Middle School*  
Carrie Deaver, *Pasadena Elementary School*  
Samantha Klenkel Wilkinson, *Cape St. Claire Elementary School*

## *Presentation of the Teacher of the Year Awards*

2019 Anne Arundel County  
Independent Schools Teacher of the Year

2019 Anne Arundel County  
Public Schools Teacher of the Year

## *Closing*



# *Aundrea Atwood-Starkey*

*Southern High School*



*W*hether she's teaching standard or advanced level courses, Aundrea Atwood-Starkey approaches every class every day simply with care. Through constant reflection, keen preparation, and sincere compassion, she's entrusted to help guide students who struggle as well as those who pursue the rigors of AP Calculus and AP Computer Science. Such deft ability to switch gears is not uncommon to most educators as they adjust to the needs of their students. However, Atwood-Starkey's eagerness to support her students' desires combined with her instructional talents are what make her an elite educator.

Fulfilling a growing interest by her students for more computer science offerings, Atwood-Starkey immersed herself in the subject and emerged with what is now a thriving computer science program at the school. She lends this same tenacity to other areas of mathematics, having helped to create a fully-customized Algebra I textbook for AACPS, currently playing a part in the design of Function Focus, and developing an Introduction to Logic course for the county.

"Her compassion, patience, and drive for student growth serves not just her students, but all of AACPS," says Kevin Wajek, AACPS Coordinator of High School Mathematics. "She consistently models the tenets of good teaching. She brings a strong pedagogy and willingness to give students what they need, regardless of the impact on her time or necessity to think outside of the box."

By teaching at Southern, Atwood-Starkey's educational journey has come full circle. She wholeheartedly equips herself with the knowledge, resources, and tools to give her all to not only her students, but also her alma mater.

*"I strive to be the best teacher for my students by listening to their needs and turning their dreams into realities. Everything I do is for my students. If they have a dream, I work with them to accomplish that dream."*

# *Teresa Beilstein*

South Shore Elementary School



Grade three with Miss B is definitely the place to be! Current and former students alike unanimously agree that their experiences in Teresa Beilstein's class are unforgettable. From fun jingles to help students remember math facts to frequent personal journal responses for each student to gentle pushes that promote achievement, Beilstein has found a formula that gets students to love learning and succeed. She would be quick to say, however, the most important ingredient to her healthy classroom is relationship building.

While relationships with students are her first priority, she equally values strong connections with her parents and colleagues. Through classroom themes like "We are Family" that set the tone for community-building for the whole school year, Beilstein is able to show that true triumph is knowing that you are supported and loved along life's journey. "She has created a positive classroom environment that celebrates every student, regardless of ability or background," explains her colleague Rebecca Cullen, a special educator at South Shore.

To complement her compassion for every child, Beilstein works extra hard to bring fresh content and concepts to catapult student engagement. Hence, riding different types of carpet down a slide to teach about friction is not an unusual occurrence. She recently earned National Board Certification as a testament to the lengths she'll go to be the very best for her students—not just as a person, but as the consummate educator and student herself. A former student who is now thriving in middle school recently wrote, "Thanks for teaching me everything I know, not just academically, but about myself."

*"My belief about teaching is that the most effective and successful teachers have one common trait: they care. I care about my students. I care about their families, their backgrounds, who they are, and who they hope to become. I show them who I am."*



# *David Britton*

*Magothy River Middle School*



David Britton balances his strong presence, tall stature, and commanding inflections with a soft, sincere, and soothing demeanor. Yet, his ability to masterfully engage and influence middle school minds is far more impressive. "As the newly appointed principal this year, I found myself drawn to Mr. Britton's classroom," admits Principal Nuria Williams. "I can always hear the excitement of student voices coming from his classroom. As I peek in, I see every student engaged because Mr. Britton designs his lessons to include both rigor and fascinating facts. Just like his sixth graders, I am hanging on every word."

"At the heart of creating (a high) level of interest in my classroom is my own passion for the sixth-grade social studies curriculum," explains the 17-year veteran educator who is also National Board Certified. "I have a profound desire to share the magnificent achievements and rich cultures of the ancient civilizations that I teach about and believe that a teacher's passion for content can be amazingly contagious among one's students. Dressing up as Julius Caesar or conducting a mock mummification of a student are not only ways to draw students in, but also a means to encourage them to delve deeper into a topic."

Britton's efforts have not only proven effective for student achievement, but he's earned tremendous respect among his students, co-workers, and community members. He is a native of the Broadneck Cluster who coaches basketball and lacrosse to not only support the youth in his community, but to also foster the essential relationships that are critical to his work.

*"The deepest understanding of curriculum occurs when students find topics engaging and, therefore, intrinsically strive to gain deeper understanding. When students feel a genuine interest in what they are learning about, they feel a great deal of connection to the classroom experiences and are, therefore, more apt to take social and emotional risks, leading to increased levels of confidence, leadership ability, and collaboration among students."*

# *Carrie Deaver*

Pasadena Elementary School



Carrie Deaver takes the school system's mantra to heart. In Deaver's eyes, "All Means All" means using movement to awaken learning in every child. "It is my job to discover what motivates my students and excites them about coming to school every day," explains Deaver. "Every child who enters my classroom has a unique story, their own set of strengths, and distinct interests. My goal is to support students' physical, intellectual, and social-emotional development because every child, regardless of ability, should be given an equal opportunity to learn, develop, and succeed."

She promotes physical literacy and a love for movement through various techniques to ensure that every student is enjoying what they are learning. As the consummate educator, she is deliberate about collaborating with her colleagues to not only incorporate movement into core lessons, but also to reinforce core skills in physical education. In addition, she leads several clubs and wellness-focused initiatives to model a healthy lifestyle to students.

As a result, countless students, no matter their struggles or challenges, hold a common notion that Mrs. Deaver is simply awesome. And earning the 2018 SHAPE Maryland Simon McNeely Award, the highest state honor among physical education teachers, proves it. She is also a National Board Certified teacher, another indication of the ways she challenges and pushes herself in the same way she does her students.

"Mrs. Deaver always gives 110 percent. Setting high expectations, she challenges her students to achieve personal success," says Principal Jennifer Quirino.

*"I believe that physical literacy is the key to being a successful student. Physical literacy is being able to move with competence and confidence. By getting to know each child and understanding their interests, I am able to motivate my students to move, learn, and grow."*

# *Samantha Klenkel Wilkinson*

*Cape St. Claire Elementary School*



*I*f you're looking for fun, look no further than Samantha Klenkel Wilkinson's bright and bustling classroom where the third-graders are equally bright and bustling. Add in a dose of technological engagement mixed with high expectations and the learning simply cannot be contained. Providing such an environment comes easily to Wilkinson as she views doing so as part of a student's individual rights.

"Every student deserves a teacher who is enthusiastic and gives effort to make learning fun; one who is intentional in the learning process, who cares deeply about student growth and success in all areas, and who is a champion of students," proclaims Wilkinson.

Wilkinson employs many approaches to support student needs and firmly believes that technology must be infused to fully embrace the 21st Century student. To support this belief, she conducts monthly "Tech Tuesday" sessions for school staff to keep abreast of the latest technological resources, benefiting all classrooms. Through the monthly parent technology newsletter, and by executing Chromebook Information Nights, she educates families on using technology with their children. She also incorporates STEM into her many extracurricular initiatives at the school.

She manages her classroom with precision, exemplifies purposeful and differentiated instruction, and has a high level of student engagement. "While Mrs. Wilkinson is masterful at delivering highly effective instruction, her greatest asset is her ability to build positive and productive relationships with students, parents, and colleagues," says Principal Janet Lancaster. "Mrs. Wilkinson holds each student in high esteem. She listens intently, manages with respect and love, and celebrates success for all students."

*"To be trusted to shape students' thinking, to teach respect of various viewpoints, to help communicate ideas, to find joy in learning, and to discover their unique strengths. This is the powerful role of the teacher and one I do not take lightly."*



# *Keya Belt Robinson*

St. Martin's Lutheran School



From robotic creations to intriguing experiments, it's nonstop science in Keya Belt Robinson's class. There is one thing, however, that gets the biggest reaction from students—her smile. Her smile is what greets them every day. Her smile is what comforts and encourages them. Her smile also helped turn around the life of at least one former student. Before teaching at independent schools for the last 13 years, Robinson taught at Mary Moss Academy.

"Clearly I was in an alternative school for a reason, but I was still scared," admits former student Shauna Larmore. "I walked into her class and she was standing in front of the room smiling. I immediately felt like this wasn't going to be so horrible. When she met our class, we were counted out by many and in some ways we even counted ourselves out. However, Miss Belt came in every day and told us that we could be great." Larmore is now a thriving entrepreneur.

To the great fortune of countless students, Robinson continues to share that smile mixed with engagement, expectations, and mentorship. She pays equal attention to lesson development and delivery as to tailoring instruction to the needs of her students. All with the purpose of a bigger picture. "When I made the choice to become a teacher, I made a choice to help shape the future," she explains. "I am committed to help shape intelligent, compassionate, responsible, free thinking adults who will change the world."

*"Each year, and each classroom, has taught me a different lesson. However, the main objective of each lesson is engaging students in critical thinking that serves them well beyond the classroom. Teaching is much more than a job where educators bide their time. Each teacher is a steward of young minds. As such, I desire to help my students grow academically, socially, morally, and ethically."*

# *Ellen Bernagozzi Smith*

St. Mary's High School



*A*lthough she facilitates the school's Spanish Exchange Program, Ellen Bernagozzi Smith provides a Spanish immersion experience in her classroom every day through song, food, role play, video presentations, field trips, guest speakers and more.

"Language is a living subject: students must experience and live language in order to master it; therefore, I give real-world experience by encouraging communication and proficiency within their field of study," she explains. "Providing my students opportunities to connect the language with people and cultures gives intrinsic value to what they are studying."

Her efforts are not in vain as her students continually perform well on the AP Spanish Language and Culture exam, clamor to participate in trips abroad, and sometimes pursue Spanish at the post-secondary level. Yet for all that she pours into her students, she finds room to contribute to her profession.

"Frequently I witness fellow colleagues observing Ellen's teaching techniques so that they can adopt her best practices, which include incorporating technology effectively to increase student learning," says Principal Mindi Imes. "Therefore, I was not surprised when she was invited to travel abroad to impact educators across the globe through Connect Rwanda." Smith maintains relationships with many of the educators with whom she bonded during the initiative.

Such an experience brings Smith's ideology full circle. "I do not simply teach Spanish; I challenge students to develop the critical thinking skills, personal responsibility, and empathy that will help them excel beyond our walls," she says.

*"The most important aspect of my teaching is respect for students as individuals. I strive to create a positive, comfortable, yet academically challenging atmosphere in my classroom. Striking a balance between the class and the individual is essential. My job is to ignite a curiosity that compels students to challenge themselves and continue their own pursuit of knowledge."*



## *Bonita Bradway*

*Tyler Heights Elementary School*

*"Teaching is simultaneously the most challenging and most rewarding job. Each student brings a story into the classroom. I believe it is my job, as an educator, to learn their stories, help students own their stories, and finally empower them to become the authors of their stories."*

**B**onita Bradway's classroom is simply magical. She intentionally builds a learning environment for her students that combines high expectations with relationships, connections, and excitement. Through thoroughly-planned lessons and unique opportunities for engagement, she strategically uses the strengths of each child in her class to foster leadership and a love of learning. When its time to advance to the next grade level, her students are not only prepared academically, but also empowered to reach their potential and shine in their community.

Bradway models civic responsibility by promoting positive changes at Tyler Heights Elementary School as part of the School Improvement Team. Her impact extends beyond the four walls of her classroom, as she intentionally involves herself with community events and organizations.

She has served as the lead teacher at multiple grade levels and conducted professional development seminars. Her passion not only drives her work, but also inspires the work of her colleagues and the efforts of her students.



## *Kimberly Collins*

*Chesapeake High School*

*"I attempt to reach every type of learner by learning new techniques and current educational practices to instill in my classroom. It is important for students to know that teachers value, support, and believe in them, not only in the classroom, but outside of school, as well."*

**K**imberly Collins is an exceptional teacher and instructional leader who truly inspires both her students and colleagues to not only reach their potential, but to exceed it. In addition to her role as a teacher, she also serves as the school's assistant athletic director and is a key member of the school's Wellness Committee. By far, her most influential accomplishment has been the passion and dedication she demonstrates in Project-Based Learning (PBL) practices and making real-world connections.

In addition, Collins is an AVID mentor, a PBL workshop presenter, and a certified athletic administer. Whenever she's needed, she can be counted on to assist with curriculum and assessment writing and revisions. Her willingness to go above and beyond for her department and for AACPS has been nothing short of inspirational.

Collins has been teaching in AACPS for her entire 13-year career and has been at Chesapeake High School most of that time. Before that, she taught at George Cromwell Elementary School and Ferndale Early Education Center





## *Sean Lane*

*Phoenix Academy*

*"Attempting to teach any content without trusting relationships is like an orchestra performing without a conductor—no one to set the tempo and keep everything together. These relationships create excitement about learning, develop trust for self-expression, and inspire passion about making music so that students become conductors of their own compositions and learning."*

Sean Lane's students give him the highest compliment a student can give a teacher: "He gets us," they say. Students love going to his classes because they believe he cares about them and their success. He encourages students to be resilient and dig a little deeper when the work is hard. He is patient and compassionate even when they are not at their best. He truly cares and students can feel that.

Lane has a nontraditional teaching style that centers around students building their music skills by first learning about their personal genres of interest. His philosophy is that when he shows respect for their music, he's showing respect for them. That's why his students strongly connect with him and believe he "gets" them.

Lane has been a teacher for 16 years, the last six at the Phoenix Academy. He also teaches song workshops at the Wellness House of Annapolis for children and teens who have lost a parent to cancer.



## *Sarah Serena*

*Waugh Chapel Elementary School*

*"A successful classroom community exists when a teacher takes time to build authentic relationships. In turn, students feel safe and are comfortable taking risks. Their love of learning is ignited and their interests and curiosity drive instruction daily."*

Sarah Serena is the quiet hero at Waugh Chapel Elementary School. She comes to school every day with a high level of collaboration and preparation to take on the new challenges in front of her. She establishes the strongest of relationships with all of her students in order to foster success and when one of them is struggling, she is the first one to seek guidance and support in order to make sure the student is pointed in the right direction to achieve.

Her ability to plan effective lessons that are highly engaging, appropriately challenging, and developmentally sound, is unmatched. The enthusiasm level of her students is constant and contagious.

Serena has spent her full six-year career in AACPS—the last two at Waugh Chapel Elementary after four years at Freetown Elementary. She has served as an intermediate IB lead teacher, in addition to serving as an assistant coach for Girls on the Run and Marathon Kids, and being the co-facilitator of the 24 Club.



## *Kimberly Travers*

*Meade Heights Elementary School*

*"Along with engagement, a classroom needs to be balanced with rigor and structure. I want my students to be risk-takers and problem-solvers in any task they are given. If things are always easy, no learning will take place."*

**K**imberly Travers is a kindergarten teacher who is committed to fostering a positive learning environment for young children. In addition to acclimating students to school life, she enjoys planning geographically and culturally focused lessons and celebrations that provide well-rounded experiences for her students.

Teaching literacy is one of the skills that Travers values the most. She capably teaches structured reading lessons with support strategies that allow all students to excel. She encourages 20 minutes of daily reading and holds students and their parents accountable for this through a positive reward system.

Travers has spent her entire 14-year career in AACPS. Along the way, she has assumed lead teacher responsibilities that allow her to collaboratively and effectively work with her fellow teachers. In the classroom and among her peers, she maintains an atmosphere where expectations and routines are backed with positive feedback to provide a positive learning environment.





## *Regina O'Hara*

*Archbishop Spalding High School*

*"There's something about being a parent that turns our perspective on its head. Because I love my children fiercely, I read the email from the short-tempered parent with empathy. Because I am confident that my children's teachers model kindness and respect, I intentionally interact with my students in the same way."*

**R**egina O'Hara's enthusiasm for teaching and learning is contagious. She has a strong work ethic that translates into an engaging, student-centered, and creative classroom. She makes literature come alive in a relevant and meaningful way. Her students admire and respect her dedication and caring demeanor. Students have described her as an involved, kind, and inspirational teacher who is always willing to provide extra help until they understand the material.

She is also passionately committed to professional growth and development. For the last five years, she has supported new teachers and teacher-mentor programs. She has redesigned monthly faculty meetings into focused professional development workshops.

O'Hara has taught English Literature for 12 years, which includes courses in International Baccalaureate English, Drama, and Creative Writing.



## *Christine Zito*

*The Summit School*

*"As a teacher, I want all of my students to become scientifically literate despite the fact that they learn differently. By differentiating my lessons to be hands-on, interactive, and engaging, my students are learning the science concepts that they need to succeed in higher levels of education, as well as to engage with science-related issues as adults."*

**C**hristine Zito has been teaching STEM courses since 2013 at The Summit School, an independent school serving students in first through eighth grades with dyslexia and other learning differences. She is masterful at tailoring her instruction to meet students' diverse instructional needs with engaging and meaningful interactions.

Zito is an extraordinary teacher who goes beyond the limits of professionalism, exuberance, and knowledge in her work. She has championed the school's STEM-infused teaching and learning environment initiative and has been instrumental in developing the framework for integrated STEM learning experiences across all grade levels.

Zito taught in New York and Colorado before joining The Summit School. Her record of courses includes Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Earth Science, Life Science, and Physical Science.



## *Excellence in Education Nominees*



*Nicole Albred*

Annapolis Area Christian School

Grade: 4

Subject: Elementary

*"As elementary educators we are called to build an educational foundation on which students can build their academic lives. Modelling for students the excitement and joy in learning is crucial in the elementary classroom and is the reason that I came back to teaching."*



*Earl Anthony*

Center of Applied Technology North

Grade: 9–12

Subject: Manufacturing Technology

*"My personal goal as an instructor is to prepare students not only for successful completion of my course, but to be successful citizens and young adults in the workforce. In my classroom, I stress positive relationships, honest communication, respect for themselves and their peers, leadership qualities, initiative, and positive feedback."*



*Kyle Butler*

Tracey's Elementary School

Grade: 2–3

Subject: Special Education

*"I want my students to enjoy coming to school each day and leave feeling that they have learned skills that they can apply to the world outside of school. Each student deserves the feeling of success and to know that they are a contributing member to the school community."*



*Ashley Butters*

Crofton Woods Elementary School

Grade: 1

Subject: Elementary

*"Teaching has many components. I begin by building an environment that is warm, welcoming, and inclusive to all. I then begin to develop meaningful relationships with my students. These relationships help to build trust and allow the students to feel comfortable when taking risks, when experiencing productive struggle, or when personal issues may arise."*



*Angela Carbone*

Severna Park Middle School

Grade: 6–8

Subject: Family and Consumer Sciences

*"My teaching philosophy is simple. Make it fun, make it collaborative and make it as hands-on as possible all the while being kind to one another."*

## *Excellence in Education Nominees*



*Laura Casciato*

Central Middle School

Grade: 8

Subject: Mathematics

*"Students often come into a math class feeling that they are just 'not good at math.' Especially in a co-taught classroom, I am working hard to undo their prior beliefs on what they are capable of doing. I want them to know that they can rise to any challenge and learn from each obstacle."*



*Melissa Connelly*

Severna Park Elementary

Grade: K-5

Subject: Library Media

*"Working in the Media Center allows me to use all types of tools and media to reach all different styles of learners. As our learners grow and change, modifying the tools allows me to reach more students on a daily basis."*



*April Orava*

Mayo Elementary

Grade: 1

Subject: Elementary

*"Teaching is more than a job, it is my passion. It allows me to be a lifelong learner, build positive relationships with my students, and instill confidence in them. Teaching also provides me a tremendous responsibility to better this world one student at a time."*



*Laura Currey*

Central Elementary

Grade: K-5

Subject: Special Education

*"Our students need to know we believe in them, by feeling connected to us and motivated to do their best for us and for themselves. They need to feel comfortable with us, knowing we care about them and want the best for them."*



*Amy Degenhard*

Jones Elementary School

Grade: K-5

Subject: Visual Arts

*"I believe everyone is always an artist and I teach to provide every child the opportunity to explore a multitude of media in order to discover what type of artist they want to be. My goal is to help students enjoy the creative process through laughter, imagination, teamwork, and perseverance. These classroom skills turn into life-long skills."*

## *Excellence in Education Nominees*



*Danyelle Edwards*

Seven Oaks Elementary School

Grade: 3

Subject: Elementary

*"I wholeheartedly believe all students are capable of learning and achieving high levels of academic achievement and success despite any disadvantages and/or challenges they may face. I feel it is our job as educators to determine every student's individual needs and learning styles, and that can only be done through building relationships with each student."*



*Elizabeth Ellis*

Crofton Meadows Elementary

Grade: 5

Subject: Elementary

*"Through co-taught lessons, tiered instruction and a passion for making learning fun, I developed a simple teaching philosophy: All children need an advocate in their corner. They need someone who supports them; celebrates their milestones; believes in their dreams; and helps them when they stumble. That is who I strive to be every single day."*



*Tully Fenner*

Northeast High School

Grade: 9–12

Subject: Biology

*"I believe that all students need to feel cared for before learning can take place. Understanding where students are emotionally and intellectually allows me to meet them on a level playing field."*



*Eileen Foley*

Corkran Middle School

Grade: 6

Subject: Language Arts

*"It is my job as a teacher to make a difference in the lives of all my students. To leave a lasting impression that will inspire them to succeed in life and give back to others is my goal as an educator. It is by far the most important job in the world."*



*Lyndsay Geddings*

Folger McKinsey Elementary School

Grade: 1

Subject: Elementary

*"I set a tone in my classroom in which the students are encouraged to take risks knowing that they will be commended for their efforts and where they will be able to learn from their mistakes. In turn, I use these opportunities as building blocks to further their learning and the development of their growth mindset."*



## *Excellence in Education Nominees*



*Courtney Gompf*

*Lindale Middle School*

Grade: 6–8

Subject: Mathematics

*"In a classroom that fosters a growth mindset, students would thoroughly enjoy coming to Math each day. Students would truly be engaged, not merely compliant, often questioning one another and participating in mathematical discourse surrounding the content."*



*Cali Hallinin*

*Ridgeway Elementary School*

Grade: K–5

Subject: Special Education

*"Every year, I promise I will do my best to teach students math and science, reading and language arts. But more importantly I promise to teach them how to be kind, responsible, and strong. In turn, my students teach me how to become a better friend, a better person, and a better role model for future generations to come."*



*Kristina Ladika*

*Arundel High School*

Grade: 9–12

Subject: English

*"I believe in rigor, but I believe that rigor is only truly successful in a firm, loving environment. Every student I teach is a reluctant wanderer; I am their enthusiastic guide."*

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*Summer Liberto*

*St Philip Neri School*

Grade: 3

Subject: Elementary

*"Children succeed when they are given opportunities to brainstorm, discuss, and work with their peers across all subjects. It is my role as a teacher to assist and allow this type of learning in my classroom to meet the needs of all my students."*



*Kyle Lynch*

*Deale Elementary*

Grade: K–5

Subject: STEM in Society

*"I believe that all students have the capability to learn and it is my job to bring the best out of them. That can mean teaching to many different learning styles, developing differentiated lessons, or finding new and innovative ways to reach students of all ability levels."*

## *Excellence in Education Nominees*



*Carla Matthews*

Center of Applied Technology South

Grade: 9–12

Subject: Cosmetology

*"Knowing that my teaching allows me to engage students with real world knowledge and experiences, and teach a curriculum supported by a set of standards that are achievable while providing them the opportunity to learn a passionate skill that will transition from the classroom to the industry is my motivation."*



*Amy Mattison*

Southgate Elementary School

Grade: 5

Subject: Elementary

*"My students are willing to work hard, take risks and remain open to new learning and ideas because of the relationships I have fostered in my supportive learning environment. They are not afraid of failure because they know I will support them unconditionally."*



*Robert Miller*

Chesapeake Bay Middle School

Grade: 8

Subject: Math

*"Teaching should focus on a student's individual development through a curriculum that allows for flexibility. I believe that teaching and learning are ongoing processes that do not end and that we should always be open to learning in an ever changing world."*



*Whitney Mitter*

Crofton Middle School

Grade: 6

Subject: Science

*"My role as a teacher is to guide students and model positive learning practices rather than teach students facts and figures. I believe taking risks and making mistakes creates lifelong learners eager to explore their world."*



*Jennifer Morgan*

St. Mary's Elementary School

Grade: 7–8

Subject: Math

*"On any given day in our math classroom, students are using algebra tiles, using movement to model different algebraic functions, using puzzle pieces to write a proof in geometry, reviewing using an inside-outside circle, completing differentiated activities according to their readiness level, and most importantly, they are having fun."*

## *Excellence in Education Nominees*



*Martin Noga*

Annapolis High School

Grade: 7–12

Subject: French

*"To educate my students to embrace the real world means to give them command of themselves. By accessing my students' learning styles, their eyes, ears, and hands become tools ready to command and their judgment becomes capable of grasping the conditions under which they must work."*



*Lauren Anita Norris*

Pershing Hill Elementary School

Grade: 4

Subject: Elementary

*"Working within a community of learners, my goal is to raise the achievement threshold so that all students identify and attain their greatest potential. In my classroom, this is accomplished by engaging in authentic learning experiences, adding depth and complexity to student learning beyond the challenge level of mandated curriculum, and offering student choice based on the optimization of learner and task "*



*Brenda Osborne*

Marley Middle School

Grade: 6

Subject: Language Arts

*"Room 234 isn't Mrs. Osborne's classroom, it belongs to the students too, and they feel that connection. I believe with all my heart that offering middle school students a safe, enthusiastic and rewarding environment will help them reach their learning potential."*



*Krista Parker*

Old Mill Senior High School

Grade: 9–12

Subject: English/Theatre

*"The most memorable educators in my life, both challenged and inspired me. They knew when to push and when to let me work things out on my own. Most of all they knew how to communicate their class content in a way that was interesting and memorable. Those are the ones that I have modeled my teaching after."*



*Erin Perkins*

Quarterfield Elementary School

Grade: 5

Subject: Elementary

*"Teachers possess superpowers that can open a remarkable world for our students. A student's sense of security is essential for success. The power of a hug, smile, or a kind word can be immeasurable. The influence of a student knowing they have a hero in their corner can help move mountains."*



## *Excellence in Education Nominees*



*Eileen Perrot*

Glendale Elementary

Grade: PreK-2

Subject: Special Education

*"I seek to challenge and stretch my students so that they can reach their individual goals, all the while providing a supportive and structured atmosphere where they feel secure enough to struggle or take risks."*



*Victoria Scalfaro*

Lothian Elementary School

Grade: PreK-5

Subject: General Music/Choir

*"Music is an artistic outlet open for interpretation, providing students with a blank canvas to discover all there is to know about music and how it impacts our world. I believe that my music classroom, and the lessons I conduct, should provide a creative language that can be communicated by all."*



*Erica Sellman*

Annapolis Middle School

Grade: 8

Subject: Language Arts

*"When a student realizes they are genuinely cared for, they are more likely to be open and willing to learn. As educators we must take that willingness and cultivate it and help it grow; contributing to something that they can carry with them far beyond the 180-day school year."*



*Kathleen Smith*

Fort Smallwood Elementary

Grade: PreK-5

Subject: Reading

*"I hope my students will understand that the world they will inhabit is important to me, as their educator, and as a result, the materials, lessons, and activities I select to have them participate in are meant to help them grow and develop as future leaders of our society in this ever-changing world."*



*Michelle Soumah*

Arundel Middle School

Grade: 7

Subject: Special Education

*"The learning that takes place when a student is in middle school is so much more than just content. I believe that my job as a teacher extends beyond the four walls of the classroom, and I do my best to help each of my students become socially, emotionally, and academically stronger."*

## *Excellence in Education Nominees*



*Amanda Spafford*

Southern Middle School

Grade: 7

Subject: Science

*"By building strong relationships with students I am able to facilitate learning in a cooperative classroom environment guiding students to reach their individualized goals. In my classroom there is an importance in teaching students to be kind members of society while learning science content."*



*Stacey Wirth*

Glen Burnie High School

Grade: 9–12

Subject: Dance K–12

*"I had seen many students enter my classroom with no dance experience and leave with confidence and self-esteem that carried over into the other facets of their lives. That was when I truly acknowledged what my purpose as a dance educator was; life lessons and interactions with students became the main focus and dance was the catalyst I taught through."*



*Jennifer Yerkey*

Jacobsville Elementary School

Grade: 3

Subject: Elementary

*"From the moment that a student enters my classroom, I make it my mission to learn all I can about them--their likes, dislikes, strengths, and weaknesses--in an attempt to identify how they learn and to find ways to both motivate and inspire them to reach their greatest potential."*



*Rebekah Yost*

Point Pleasant Elementary School

Grade: 4–5

Subject: Special Education

*"As a special educator equity is incredibly important. The students I service all have diverse needs; those needs are met by identifying what is best for each student. Supporting my students with strategies, manipulatives, and modified work allows them to achieve their best while not sacrificing rigor."*

# *Business Partnership Awards*

Over 50 Employees



## *Anne Arundel County Police Department*

*Nominated by Glen Burnie High School*

In sync with the school's Public Service Signature Program, the police department has provided opportunities for students to tour its facility, visit a 911 call center and emergency operations rooms, and talk with current police and command staff. Their personnel were instrumental in creating a one-of-a-kind "911 Communications Course" that trains students to become certified emergency call takers. Because of this partnership, "Glen Burnie High School and the entire Anne Arundel County is a better place," says Principal Scott McGuire.



## *Assistance League of the Chesapeake*

*Nominated by the Office of School & Family Partnerships*

From distributing new school uniforms to tutoring, the Assistance League has donated thousands of hours to ensure students have the resources and support they need to succeed. Its volunteers have even performed puppet shows for young learners to explore issues of disability, cultural differences, bullying, and other social topics. "The Assistance League is truly committed to supporting the school system's driving value of All Means All and is a perfect example of how #WeAreBetterTogether," says Senior Manager for the Office of School & Family Partnerships Teresa Tudor.



## *Atlantic Bingo Supply, Inc.*

*Nominated by Ridgeway Elementary School*

Over the past 19 years, Atlantic Bingo Supply, Inc. has proven its dedication to Ridgeway ES time and again through countless acts of teacher appreciation initiatives and celebration. Most notable for the students and faculty, however, is its long-standing sponsorship of the school's annual Run, Jump & Throw Festival. This event offers Olympic-type activities for students with severe disabilities from various elementary schools. "Nothing is more powerful than the sense of accomplishments [students] feel when competing in this event," says School Counselor Melissa Stup.



## *Blades of Green*

*Nominated by Southern High School*

In support of the school's Design: Preservation & Innovation Signature Program, Blades of Green actively participates in initiatives that bolster student confidence and knowledge such as, Career Conversations, Pizza with a Professional, Career Expos, and Mock interviews. It also conducts field trips to its facility and provides internship opportunities to high school students across the county. "Businesses like Blades of Green are key in connecting our students with opportunities to work in industries of their interest," says AACPS Internship Coach Rodney Bolton.



# Business Partnership Awards

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## Ginger Cove

*Nominated by Center of Applied Technology South*

Through on-site exposure for the school's nursing assistant students, Ginger Cove helps students practice, in depth, patient care skills in a one-on-one environment with a well-qualified and seasoned geriatric nursing assistant mentor. As a result, students gain the experience necessary to graduate as a certified nursing assistant and sit for the Maryland Board of Nursing Geriatric Nursing Assistant Examination. Ginger Cove has even hired several CAT South graduates, demonstrating a true commitment to supporting career readiness.



## SECU

*Nominated by Old Mill High School*

From providing guest speakers to serving as judges in the tenth-grade Shark Tank Competition, the SECU team has jumped at the opportunity to be an active and effective participant in the school's International Economics & Finance Signature Program. By hosting its Reality Fair, SECU shares its passion for education about budgeting and saving. At the Fair, students are challenged to make a series of real-world financial and economic decisions, the impact of which is reviewed with a financial planner.



## Shoes That Fit

*Nominated by Germantown Elementary School*

In the effort to bolster student confidence, performance in physical education, and desire to attend school, Shoes That Fit works with agencies nationwide to provide shoes to students in need. Its efforts, through the support of the Newport Group, helped 20 students at Germantown ES just as the organization intended. "When our students received their shoes they were so very happy. One of our students thanked the guidance counselor over and over each time he saw her in the hallway," says Principal Karen Soneira.



## United States Coast Guard Yard Structural Group

*Nominated by the Office of Career & Technology Internships*

By participating in open houses, visiting classrooms, and organizing field trips, members of the Yard work closely with both centers of applied technology to excite students about the opportunities available through technical and trade careers. The Yard is committed to providing on-the-job experiences for high school students and regularly hosts student internships and work-based learning experiences. With 65 AACPS and CAT Career Completer graduates currently employed by the Yard, it is clear that investing in students today can positively shape the industry workforce of tomorrow.

## *Business Partnership Awards*

Under 50 Employees



### *Anne Arundel—Annapolis Community Emergency Response Team*

*Nominated by Meade High School*

From coordinating the school's Teen CERT Disaster Scenario with the Anne Arundel County Fire Department to planning and participating in the annual Emergency Preparedness Expo, AAA CERT is providing students with real-world exposure and experience and preparing the next generation of emergency responders. AAA CERT "has spent countless hours supporting our Homeland Security Signature Program through mentoring students, providing professional development opportunities to staff, and working with AACPS Central Office to ensure AACPS graduates are college and career ready," says the school's Signature Program Facilitator James Hopper.



### *ClearShark H2O*

*Nominated by Broadneck High School*

In perfect alignment with the school's Environmental Literacy Signature Program, ClearShark H2O challenges students to match its enthusiasm and passion for the environment through inspiring efforts. Focused on revitalizing youth engagement in Maryland's waterways, ClearShark H2O has supported the school by providing professional development and enrichment opportunities to bring environmental literacy to life. ClearShark H2O was instrumental in the development of the school's first Environmental Literacy Film Festival. This countywide event allowed middle and high school students to showcase short student-made films with an environmental focus.



### *Compass Government Partners*

*Nominated by South River High School*

With a mission to empower today's youth to become tomorrow's leaders, Compass has been an asset to the school's Global Communications and Public Affairs Signature Program. Whether mentoring students one-on-one, planning and supervising field trips to the State House, or providing professional experience to develop a Civics Virtues series, Compass encourages students to develop an interest in current world events and recognize the power of their voice in our democracy. Through its influence students are prepared to "lead productive lives of purpose and meaning," says Principal Will Myers.



### *Henson & Associates*

*Nominated by Severna Park High School*

Henson & Associates has been sharing its passion for financial literacy through the school's Business Innovation & Leadership Signature Program as an active member of the school's Business Advisory Board and through a variety of Signature-related activities. Henson & Associates has also developed unique financial literacy advisory lessons and even helped organize a school-wide financial literacy week. Henson & Associates' "excitement of financial literacy topics instills confidence in our students as future investors and productive citizens," says Principal Patrick Bathras.

## Business Partnership Awards



### *New Life Addiction Counseling and Mental Health Services*

*Nominated by Northeast High School*

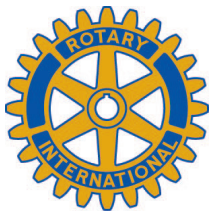
Partnering with the school's Human Performance Signature Program, New Life organized classroom visits from key business partners who could help students better understand the opioid crisis and how it was impacting their own community. Students used this new information to create a "Haunted House of Addictions," to increase awareness about the consequences of using drugs and how to spot the signs of an overdose. One Northeast Signature student shares, "I feel like I am making a difference in my generation today."



### *Redemption Church Maryland*

*Nominated by Magothy River Middle School*

Redemption Church Maryland has a service mindset when it comes to supporting the teachers and staff at Magothy River Middle School. The church hosts two staff appreciation meals each year and often leaves treats for teachers in their mailboxes. The church also donated time, money, and volunteers to remodel the school's teacher's lounge by updating the space with new furniture, plumbing, and counterspace to create a warm and welcoming place of refuge. "Their kindness and thoughtfulness is a boon to us," says Principal Nuria Williams.



### *Rotary Club of Lake Shore—Severna Park*

*Nominated by Freetown Elementary School*

The Rotary Club of Lake Shore—Severna Park has worked hand-in-hand with the school to foster a love of reading through events like Reading Nights and "Books and Bagels." These events bring the community together to share strategies to encourage reading at home. In addition to providing refreshments for attendees, Rotary Club members assist with set up, talk with families, and help students pick out books. The Rotary Club has also provided reading lights and backpacks for students and a Little Free Library for the community.



### *Severna Park United Methodist Church*

*Nominated by Brooklyn Park Elementary School*

The Severna Park United Methodist Church (UMC) has helped ensure that no student at the school goes home hungry. Over the past six years, the church's Children's Ministry collects and packs bags of food for students to take home to their families over the weekend through the Backpack Buddies program. In addition to foods and healthy snacks, students also receive hats, gloves, coats, pajamas, and books, which means they always have something new to look forward to in their backpacks.



Excellence in Education  
*Selection Committees*  
*2019 Teachers of the Year*



Kristie Battista, Principal  
Woodside ES



Merlene Clarke, Principal  
Phoenix Academy



Andre Dillard, Principal  
Georgetown East ES



Michael Dunn, Principal  
Chesapeake Bay MS



Amanda Edmonds, Principal  
Freetown ES



Katie Feuerherd, Principal  
Southern HS



Katrina Griffin  
2016 AACPS Teacher of the Year



Russell Leone, President  
TAAAC



Vanessa Rivera  
Anne Arundel County  
Council of PTAs



Beth Shakan, Principal  
Brooklyn Park MS



Dr. Nuria Williams, Principal  
Magothy River MS



John Yore, Principal  
Meade HS

*2019 Business Partnership Awards*



Lise Foran, DoDEA Grant  
Project Manager, AACPS



David Reilly, President  
Reilly Benefits, Inc.



Kathy Simms, Marketing &  
Outreach Specialist, AACPS



Chuck Yocum, Senior Manager,  
Business & Community  
Partnerships, AACPS

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

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Mission BBQ  
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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:

Anne Arundel County Public Schools

*Design and Print Services*

*Partnerships, Development, and Marketing Department*

*Communications Office*

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





# Former AACS Teachers of the Year

2017–18

*Heather Carnaghan*

8th Grade | Monarch Global Academy

(Maryland Finalist)

2016–17

*Josh Carroll*

English | South River HS

(Maryland Teacher of the Year—2018)

2015–16

*Katrina Griffin*

German | North County HS

(Maryland Finalist)

2014–15

*Jennie J.L. Merrill*

5th Grade | Severna Park ES

(Maryland Finalist)

2013–14

*Christina Houston*

Social Studies | Broadneck HS

2012–13

*Jodie Hogan*

Spanish | South River HS

(Maryland Finalist)

2011–12

*Martha Gardner*

Elementary Teacher | Belvedere ES

2010–11

*Laura Groo*

Language Arts | Southern MS

(Maryland Finalist)

2009–10

*Erin Sullivan*

ESOL | Glen Burnie HS

2008–09

*Donna McCallister*

Language Arts | George Fox MS

2007–08

*Clayton Culp*

Mathematics | Broadneck HS

2006–07

*Alicia Appel*

English | Southern HS

(Maryland Finalist)

2005–06

*Susan Casler*

Language Arts | Crofton MS

(Maryland Finalist)

2004–05

*Walter “Skip” Lee*

Physical Education | Chesapeake HS

2003–04

*Michael Bell*

Art | Southern HS

2002–03

*André Jones*

Social Studies | Severna Park MS

2001–02

*Mattie Procaccini*

English | Old Mill HS

2000–01

*Anthony Berard*

Social Studies | Glen Burnie HS

1999–00

*Denise Levine*

Art | Piney Orchard ES

1998–99

*Diane Gerrier*

Instrumental Music | Severn River MS

(Maryland Finalist)

1997–98

*Bruce Villwock*

Physical Education | Broadneck HS

1996–97

*Priscilla Ward*

Pre–K | Germantown ES

(Maryland Finalist)

1995–96

*Kandace Chase*

Special Education | Ruth Eason School

1994–95

*Thomas Cordts*

Physical Education | Windsor Farm ES

1993–94

*Linda Adamson*

Elementary | Mayo ES and Jessup ES

(Maryland Teacher of the Year—1995)

1992–93

*Jane Daugherty*

Music | Broadneck HS

(Maryland Finalist)

1991–92

*Virginia Crespo*

Social Studies | Broadneck HS

(Maryland Finalist)

1990–91

*Olin Yoder*

Art | Meade HS

(Maryland Finalist)

1989–90

*Art Smelkinson*

Drama | Old Mill HS

1988–89

*Patricia Neidhardt*

Science | Broadneck HS

(Maryland Teacher of the Year – 1990)

1987–88

*Penny Vahsen*

Science | Magothy River MS

1986–87

*Richard Wiles*

Physical Education | Millersville ES

(Maryland Finalist)