2009 Excellence in Education Awards

Thursday, April 23, 2009
BWI Marriott Hotel
Linthicum Heights, Maryland
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.
2009 Excellence in Education Awards

Awards for
Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Teacher of the Year

Anne Arundel County Private School
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
Tim Tooten
Master of Ceremonies
Education Reporter, WBAL-TV Channel 11

Greetings
Larry Ulvila
Chairman of the Board, Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce

Dinner - 6:45

Awards Ceremony - 7:30
Honoring Educators
Enrique M. Melendez
President, Board of Education

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

Bob Burdon
CEO, Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce
Recognizing Excellence

Presentation of the 2009 Teacher Honorees

Tim Tooten
Education Reporter, WBAL-TV Channel 11

Collin Wojciechowski
Student Member, Anne Arundel County Board of Education

Public School Finalists
Paula Hendry, Tyler Heights Elementary School
Donna McCallister, George Fox Middle School
Helen Mihm, Crofton Middle School
Marianne Shultz, Northeast High School

Private School Finalists
James Roberson, St. Andrew’s United Methodist Day School
Christine Shea, The Summit School

Promoting Partnerships

Presentation of Business Partnership Nominees and Awards
Alicia Daugherty
Vice President, Comcast

Presentation of the Teacher of the Year Award

2009 Anne Arundel County Private School Teacher of the Year
2009 Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher of the Year

Closing

Tim Tooten
Kimberly Bibeault
Marley Elementary School

“Students work and learn best in an environment that seeks to include them in their learning, excite them about their potential, and takes them to places beyond their imagination.”

Kimberly Bibeault has been a part of the Anne Arundel County Public Schools system since 1980, and has been a reading teacher at Marley Elementary School for the past five years. She has also led book clubs for teachers. All of these tasks fit into her larger objective to help students participate in their own educational experiences and help adults become better role models for children. She is involved in volunteer outreaches in tutorial services, promoting learning and parental involvement, and has served as a liaison between the Marley Elementary School faculty and the PTA. She volunteers with “Carpenter’s Kitchen” to serve meals to homeless people in Baltimore, as well as the Back Pack initiative, which provides back-to-school supplies for needy children.

Jennifer Boswell
Lake Shore Elementary School

“Teaching is an art that no person could ever master. It is the continuous ebb and flow of instruction and thought through a classroom, small group, or one-on-one instruction. Teaching is not just about giving instruction, but about the sharing of thoughts and the growth of a mind.”

Jennifer Boswell came to AACPS in 2005 and has been at Lake Shore Elementary School since then. As a chairperson there for the second- and third-grade Educational Management Team, she advises other teachers on the best ways to provide extra help to students who need it. Her principal, Donna Spencer, said that one of Boswell’s best attributes is her “willingness to share her creative ideas with her colleagues, especially when she volunteers to provide additional support to new teachers or when she presents one of her Best Practices ideas to the faculty.”

Beyond that, her community involvement includes volunteering at a homeless shelter at its weekly “Family Literacy Night.”

Jessica Bounelis-Woods
Glen Burnie High School

“For the past eight years, I have joked that my full-time job is teaching, and my other full-time job is teaching.”

Jessica Bounelis-Woods puts a high priority on being a good teacher and an active member of the Glen Burnie community, even though the Glen Burnie High School graduate no longer lives there. She finds herself teaching AVID English during the day, but takes every opportunity to break down the apathy about community involvement that she sees so frequently. She calls a lack of concern by both students and their parents as the top educational issue facing teachers today. To combat that situation, she thrusts herself into the activities at Glen Burnie High School, including sporting events, proms, and serving as a judge for the school’s singing competition.

“In addition to her excellent scholastic accomplishments, she has proven her leadership ability by leading Ninth Grade Academy content teams, orchestrating and delivering Kagan staff development to both large and small groups, and recently becoming Glen Burnie High School’s AVID coordinator, providing young people an opportunity to succeed academically with constant, enthusiastic, and devoted coaching,” Assistant Principal Elena Thomas said.

Her love for Glen Burnie was never more evident than on April 18, 2009, when she married English teacher Ryan Woods at the school.
Michele Brown
Lindale Middle School

“Each learner is unique in the ways of receiving instruction, and my role as the classroom teacher is to present information in a variety of ways so that every child has a fair opportunity to learn from the information presented.”

For years, Michele Brown was often present at schools in the role of involved parent. She saw “the impact of parent-teacher involvement and how critical the two intertwined for our children’s success.”

So, she went back to school to get an education degree from Bowie State University and is now on the teacher’s side of the parent-teacher equation as one of AACPS’ nominees for this award.

Lindale Middle School’s sixth grade counselor Susan DeNardo has seen how Brown’s influence benefits students at the school. “Recently, she brought her Algebra I students to a Bridge Competition sponsored by the State Highway Administration, entering three teams,” DeNardo said. “Two of the teams earned first and second place, out of 20 schools represented from all over the state… Once again, Mrs. Brown’s efforts were over and above normal teacher expectations.”

Brown has been a math teacher at Lindale for more than six years.

Sandra Bryant
West Annapolis, Solley, and Sunset elementary schools

“Throughout my 30-plus years in the county, I have been fortunate to work with many outstanding art educators, but Sandy stands out as among the best of the best.”

Sandra Bryant has been an art teacher in AACPS since 1980 and is currently an art instructor at three elementary schools. Her positive experiences with teachers and art as a child compelled her to weave the two into her career goal.

She now feels her “greatest contribution and accomplishment in my education career has been to gain the ability to make art accessible, enjoyable, and a learning experience for every child, no matter their skills or abilities.”

Her community involvement includes sponsoring midshipmen and volunteering with the youth and serving on the search committee at her church, and volunteering at her local swim club and the Annapolis Civic Ballet. Her ultimate objective would be for her students to carry art concepts beyond the classroom by visiting museums, drawing and painting at home, remembering artists’ names, and gaining a general appreciation for the cultural arts.

Melissa Carter
Marley Middle School

“I am constantly interacting with students to keep them on their toes, and remind them that I am always keeping an eye out for their safety, as well as their academic/social well-being. I am a student-centered teacher, and I am always trying to find ways to motivate and engage my students.”

Melissa Carter has only been a teacher in AACPS since August of 2006, but in those few short years here, she has quickly distinguished herself as a leader and trend-setter at Marley Middle School.

Department Chairman Stephen Fletcher said, “There have been numerous opportunities to observe Melissa in her classroom, and each time I walk away with something that I could try in my classroom later that day, or the next.”

In addition to using innovative techniques that inspire her students and colleagues, Carter also wants to increase parental involvement which, she believes, will create a stronger community. She hopes to change some parents’ attitudes so they can help their children understand the importance of their own roles in obtaining a high-quality education.
Judith Crawford
Severna Park Middle School

“Classroom teachers have the responsibility of creating an environment that fosters not only creativity and trust, but that provides an opportunity for all learners to engage in learning that is challenging and relevant.”

Judith Crawford began in AACPS as a substitute teacher in 1991, has been at Severna Park Middle School since 1993, and has been the school’s AVID Site Coordinator since 2003. Under her leadership, Severna Park Middle has been recognized as the only Maryland AVID School of Distinction. She meets many of her students when she interviews them for AVID when they are in fifth grade, and she follows them until they complete the eighth grade.

“At the eighth grade AVID graduation celebration in June each year, I am in awe when I see these young men and women who entered my classroom as often shy, unsure sixth graders leave three years later full of confidence and self-assuredness.”

Crawford founded the Youth RISE/Leo Service Learning Club at Severna Park Middle and organizes the Sharing Foundation Toy Drive and SPAN food drive each year, as well as the school’s Staff Appreciation Week. In the community, she is involved in Severna Park service projects for students, and the Komen Race for the Cure, as a cancer survivor herself. She was the Mills-King Human Relations Award winner in 2005, and volunteers at Sunrise Nursing Home with her students.

Faith Culp
Ferndale Early Education Center

“I believe every American has the right to an education that provides a core knowledge base and cognitive growth, along with an opportunity to expand one’s own perspective and experiences. The education of our youth is a shared experience and responsibility between parents, educators, and the community.”

Faith Culp has been working in the field of education, both for AACPS and Anne Arundel Community College, since her 1997 debut at Lindale Middle School. In that time, she has sought to integrate her career decisions with the responsibilities of being a parent. For three years she served as the secretary of the Parent-Teacher Association at Belvedere Elementary School, where her daughter attends. In both roles, Culp believes she has a duty to help give students the skills and knowledge they need to live independent and productive lives.

Lisa Rice, the principal at Ferndale Early Education Center where Culp is the counselor, says she “offers to observe children in their classroom settings in order to provide support to the classroom teacher, and she has presented sessions to our PTA to offer ideas to parents to assist their children in the home setting.”

Those who work with her boast of Culp’s ability to make the work easy for everyone else around her. Students, teachers, and parents all boast of her ability to get things done – from the Belvedere Spring Fair, to the personal connections she makes, to everyone who crosses her path.

Anne-Marie Dammeyer
Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center

“By living and modeling good citizenship, by supporting the community and becoming involved outside of school, by promoting and caring about my own children and the children around us: this is improving my teaching profession.”

An Annapolis native, Anne-Marie Dammeyer has dedicated herself to Anne Arundel County Public Schools with over 31 years of service, first as a primary classroom teacher and for the past 10 years as an outdoor education teacher specialist. She manages to keep each day fresh by continuously learning and still gets a thrill when a child’s eyes light up upon discovering a concept for the first time.

A teaching colleague called Mrs. Dammeyer, a National Board Certified Teacher, “an extremely effective teacher who engages in the kind of community outreach that makes our county a better place to live.” Mrs. Dammeyer is passionate about protecting the environment and inspires students, colleagues, and parents to be the same. She has volunteered for many community projects, including coaching, massage therapy donations, and coordinating toy, clothing, and book collections. She is a regular blood platelet donor at Children’s National Medical Center and has coordinated science activities for Annapolis Area Title I Schools’ Science Family Nights.
“Teaching requires passion and enthusiasm, strong will and perseverance, and most of all, dedication and commitment. And this is how I approach each day – committed to my students and determined that they will learn.”

Kelly Fortune
Hillsmere Elementary School

Rebecca Goss
Meade High School

The public schools teacher honorees

Kelly Fortune

Rebecca Goss

Theresa Halstad

“Teaching requires passion and enthusiasm, strong will and perseverance, and most of all, dedication and commitment. And this is how I approach each day – committed to my students and determined that they will learn.”

Kelly Fortune made her decision to become a teacher when she saw the impact that schools could have on children’s lives. She witnessed a girl who had been abandoned at home make the determined effort to get herself to school every day because it was the only place she felt safe.

For the past 12 years, Fortune has taught at Hillsmere Elementary School while completing her National Board Teaching certification and studying to complete her master’s degree in reading from Goucher College. Her principal, Christopher Woolleyhand, calls her “a poster teacher for what it means to be a professional educator. Her positive energy and intellect have enriched Hillsmere Elementary in undeniable ways.”

While Fortune calls her own contributions “small and many that often go unnoticed,” her co-workers’ comments prove that they are aware of her influence. Fortune’s colleagues have noticed her commitment to her students and her desire to make a difference on a daily basis.

“I accept nothing but their best and I never stop pushing for more. I treat every one of them as if they were my own.”

Rebecca Goss

Rebecca Goss learned early on that life doesn’t always turn out the way you plan it. Sometimes, alternate plans help it turn out for the better. When she started college, Goss’ plans were to eventually work in the medical field. She switched gears, though, and despite being a young single mother, earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology in 2001.

Now, she’s a year from earning a master’s degree in mathematics education from the University of Maryland – Baltimore County. Her Algebra I classes have achieved the highest or second highest scores in county benchmarks for the past two years, and her students have had a 95 percent pass rate on the state high school assessments for the past three years.

“As Algebra Team Leader she serves as a data point for the school’s Adequate Yearly Progress; her leadership is one of the reasons that Meade High School has met state targets in recent years,” said Joy Donlin, AACPS’ Coordinator of Secondary Mathematics.

“I believe my greatest accomplishment has been the connection that I make with my students, the connection I make with families, and the connection that I make with my colleagues,” she said.

One parent wrote to say that her daughter, one of Halstad’s former special education students, is now on the honor roll at Old Mill Middle School South, where she is fully included in general education classes and hopes to pursue the field of education just like Mrs. Halstad.

“She provides individual attention in a creative, loving manner that allows our neediest students to take risks and raise their level of confidence.”

Theresa Halstad
Millersville Elementary School

Theresa Halstad has been a special education teacher at Millersville Elementary School since 2001, and has focused on fourth- and fifth-grade language arts and math. She brings passion to her job every day, something she feels was inherited from her parents’ dedication to the youth of their North County community. In fact, Halstad doesn’t see her profession as a job, but as a passion.

Working in the special education environment, she receives great satisfaction in seeing her students’ small successes develop into larger ones. Most of Halstad’s students leave Millersville with the confidence that allows them to be the best that they can be and to dream of going to college one day.

“I believe my greatest accomplishment has been the connection that I make with my students, the connection I make with families, and the connection that I make with my colleagues,” she said.

One parent wrote to say that her daughter, one of Halstad’s former special education students, is now on the honor roll at Old Mill Middle School South, where she is fully included in general education classes and hopes to pursue the field of education just like Mrs. Halstad.
Desiree Hartman
Linthicum Elementary School

“Her undying passion to move the students at Linthicum Elementary School forward is contagious. I always walk away from my meetings with her hoping to achieve half of the ideas she brings to the table.”

After ten years as a retail manager and buyer, Desiree Hartman decided to earn her teaching certification and begin her second career as a part-time teacher at Lothian Elementary School. She also taught at Tyler Heights Elementary before moving to Linthicum Elementary as a reading specialist in 2000.

Ms. Hartman makes every effort to educate herself on the latest methodologies that will allow her to become a better teacher. Her students have become the beneficiaries of this dedication and, as a fellow teacher said, “her ability to differentiate instruction enables all those that come to her classroom to succeed.”

Linthicum Elementary School Principal Fran Nussle said, “I have witnessed firsthand students who were significantly below grade-level, reluctant readers gain the necessary skills and self-confidence to become proficient readers.”

Ms. Hartman is also the volunteer coordinator at the school and works with the PTA on fundraisers. She especially enjoys judging the Young Authors Contest, something she calls a “very rewarding experience.”

Shavaun Hawkins
Windsor Farm Elementary School

“My role as an educator is to present learning opportunities to my students by using the best practice methods of the ever-so-changing times to mold my students into productive, contributing members of society.”

Shavaun Hawkins was known as the Pied Piper as a child because, as her mother puts it, “all those children keep following her around.” When they did, she would keep everyone busy by “playing school” when she shared her love of numbers, science, and the performing arts. Upon her college graduation, she turned down other job offers in order to teach in Anne Arundel County, where she had grown up. It just made sense and provided a sense of pride, she said. She’s been a teacher at Windsor Farm Elementary School since 1996 and was included in the publication “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers” in 2005-2006.

Her commitment to enriching the lives of her students extends far beyond the classroom and is evident in her development of various programs, including the Windsor Farm Elementary, Severn River Middle School, and Magothy River Middle School dance companies; the planning of the annual parent-child trip to Huntsville, Alabama, to attend space camp; and her leadership in directing the National Hall of Inventors’ Camp Invention Summer Program in the county.

Paula Borinsky Hendry
Tyler Heights Elementary School

“Mrs. Hendry has changed our children’s reading habits dramatically by instituting the Accelerated Reader Program here. Children are seen wandering down the hall, book in hand as they go from class to class.”

Before going back to school to get a master’s degree in library science, Paula Borinsky Hendry spent more than 20 years as a science teacher. While at Annapolis High School, Hendry helped five of her students earn scores of 5 on the AP chemistry exam – the highest possible score on that test. Now, she’s creating a culture of reading at Tyler Heights Elementary School, where young students proudly identify themselves as “chapter book readers.”

Hendry has a particular interest in how the brain works and absorbs information, and this year led a book study group on brain research. Because 80% of Tyler Heights’ students live in poverty, special challenges are present that make academic excellence more difficult. But Hendry helps those students “view the world beyond their limited lives.” As impressive as her teaching talents are, Tyler Heights Elementary School’s principal Faye Daniel says “more important than her talents and dedication, however, is Paula’s positive attitude and the ability to see the good in all of us.”
Diane Kirk
Arundel High School

“My desire to teach health and physical education comes from my firm belief that decisions regarding your own health and wellness are some of the most important decisions that my students will make during their teenage years. Making positive lifestyle choices will give them every opportunity to achieve success without creating more obstacles along the way.”

Diane Kirk has spent the past four years at Arundel High School as a health and physical education teacher for grades 9 through 12. She believes that by giving her students the tools and opportunities to improve their physical well-being, they are also positioning themselves to improve in the classroom. She is always looking for ways to engage her students as active participants in their own education. She constantly seeks student feedback and doesn’t mind changing paths if the feedback suggests a different course of action. As one of the developers of the program Connecting Arundel Teachers and Students (CATS), Kirk helps teachers improve their communications and share in the benefit of an improved relationship with those in the classroom. Former student Amanda Mencik said “her teaching methods keep students learning through fun and innovative ways that keep them involved and having fun.”

Denise Lane
George T. Cromwell Elementary School

“I believe that teaching must be a love of the heart. A person who goes into teaching must find working with children, parents, and colleagues fulfilling. A teacher must love what they do, so much that they are willing to continue their own education.”

Inspired by her first-grade teacher’s love for her students, Denise Lane knew at an early age what she wanted to do with her life. In her 20-year career, she has taught students from kindergarten through third grade. She spent two years at Ferndale Elementary School teaching first grade before moving to George T. Cromwell Elementary School, where she has taught since 1995. In addition to her classroom duties, she has been a lead teacher since 2007, co-chair of the school’s PBIS team since 2005, and a mentor teacher since 2000. Through the school’s Human Relations Committee, she also has helped in efforts like toy and food drives and organizing campaigns to help needy families in the school community.

Recognized by her colleagues as a team player and role model, Mrs. Lane takes time to know every student’s strengths and needs, and is able to differentiate her instruction so that every student’s needs are met. In turn, her students feel a connection and deep affection for her. “Every student thinks that Mrs. Lane loves them the most,” Cromwell principal Karen Markovic said.

John Leitner
Broadneck High School

“I believe in conveying the passion I have for my subject to my students. I would even say this passion transcends my subject area into lifelong learning and curiosity. This passion is all about inspiring and motivating; opening new doors and seeing new perspectives; human curiosity and the search for deeper meaning. It may sound rather corny, but it is the heart and soul of why I am a teacher.”

Education runs in John Leitner’s family, so the fact that he became a teacher isn’t a surprise. Mr. Leitner’s students benefit not only from his pedigree, but his intense passion and desire to transfer the knowledge of complicated subjects like physics to them so they, too, can become enthralled in the complexity of the world in which we live.

Mr. Leitner’s self-described primary goal is to help his students “make a clear connection between the classroom and life experience.” He does so with a commitment that goes well beyond the classroom. He sponsors the school’s engineering and robotics club, coaches baseball, and is the sponsor for the Habitat For Humanity Club.

In addition, Mr. Leitner is perhaps the school’s leading proponent of enhancing instructional technology use in every classroom. He regularly trains fellow faculty members on technology use, and even went so far as to lend his SmartBoard to another teacher for months so she could learn how to use it with her special education students.
Laura Liccione
Edgewater Elementary School

“What I have found to be the most successful way of engaging students is through humor and making the subject matter as real as possible to them.”

Laura Liccione remembers vividly the love of learning she had as a young child. As a teacher for eight years, she tries daily to impart that same love to her students, and her teaching is guided by three principles: humor, follow-through, and acceptance.

Her techniques allow her to build deep relationships not only with her students, but with parents and colleagues as well. She tailors her lessons to address the needs of every student, including enrichment pieces for those who can achieve more and offering after-school tutoring or modified in-class programs for those who need additional assistance.

She also serves as the school’s e-Coach, helping fellow teachers in the use of computer programs and the integration of technology in the classroom. Last year, she earned her master’s certification in instructional technology for school improvement. In addition, she maintains the school’s Web site, and serves as the school’s Equity Liaison.

She has also planned the highly successful technology initiative Hispanic Outreach for Literacy Advancement (HOLA), which is aimed at engaging Hispanic parents and students in both face-to-face and online communications to improve literacy.

Donna McCallister
George Fox Middle School

“My greatest accomplishment as a teacher is getting an e-mail or letter a year, two, or five years later from a student who simply says ‘thank you’ – thank you because I have influenced her life in the same way that many of my teachers influenced who I am today.”

Influenced greatly by the teachers who inspired her in her younger years, Donna McCallister strives every day to involve her students as much in the teaching process as the learning process. By doing so, McCallister, a National Board Certified Teacher, says she has learned as much about teaching from her students than they have learned from her.

Visitors to her classroom are immediately aware of her passion and enthusiasm for helping children learn. From the first day to the last, Mrs. McCallister’s students are excited not only by the subject matter, but the style in which it is being delivered.

Mrs. McCallister, who has been teaching for 15 years, has also organized and promoted reading programs as well as an incentive program for students who exhibit positive behavior. She also has sponsored a county-wide eighth-grade online reading club.

A member of the School Improvement Team and chairman of the school’s Language Arts department, Mrs. McCallister also serves as a mentor to her colleagues. She has sponsored workshops for her department as well as the school staff. On the county level, she has served on committees to select textbooks and write curriculum and pacing guides.

Helen Mihm
Crofton Middle School

“As a teacher, I realize it is vital to take risks with your students for them to receive the rewards of learning. It is a risky venture to shift from being the controller of my classroom and the conveyor of information to being a facilitator of the learning process, but it is a necessary shift if we are going to enable our students to be successful in the 21st century.”

A National Board Certified Teacher and a science teacher for 14 years, Helen was an environmental scientist and business owner before arriving at Crofton Middle School. She uses that experience, which includes the development and implementation of hands-on science programs, to guide her instruction. Mrs. Mihm aims to be more than an instructor for her students. Her goal is to be a conduit through which collaboration, curiosity, and creativity can be integrated with content to propel students to actively search for and learn about information needed to solve problems.

The goal, Mrs. Mihm says, is to provide a safe and fun environment where “students feel comfortable when they make false starts and wrong turns and are still encouraged to continue on their quest.”

Mrs. Mihm, who is the chairman of the school’s Science department, has developed after-school and summer science enrichment programs. She also has conducted training workshops for science teachers and helped write countywide middle school science curriculum since 2004.
Kimberly Miller
Quarterfield Elementary School

“There are many children today who lack requisite learning experiences that were formerly considered commonplace. Many children do not get to visit libraries, museums, and other ‘staples’ of childhood known to former generations. It is important that educators allow children to experience learning through a variety of senses and through authentic learning experiences and materials.”

Kimberly Miller’s first part-time job was working with 5-year-olds at an afterschool program. That job turned her on to the wonders of working with young minds, and has propelled her to a teaching career in which she now finds herself giving kindergarten students solid foundations for educational excellence. She draws inspiration from the inherent joy in her students, from the minute they rush down the hall and greet her with a hearty “Good Morning!” to the time they leave her class excited by what they’ve learned that day.

Ms. Miller is at home in her classroom, and strives in every way possible to make her students and parents feel the same way. From learning centers to word walls, everything in Ms. Miller’s classroom is designed at a student’s level to entice feelings of warmth and welcome. Her creativity engages students and her genuine interest in their accomplishments outside the classroom takes those relationships to another level.

Ms. Miller makes frequent appearances at students’ extracurricular activities, such as football games, dance recitals, and birthday parties.

Donna Resnick
Severn Elementary School

“My greatest contributions and accomplishments in education aren’t flashy, but simple and mundane. I do what I expect of my students: I treat everyone with respect, I am always prepared, I follow directions and do my homework, and I always do my best. Above all, I love children and teaching, and those things help me to bring out the best in those children every year.”

Donna Resnick didn’t have to go far to find the inspiration to become a teacher. It came from her father, an audiologist who helped people with hearing and speech impairments. A summer volunteering at the hospital where her father worked found Mrs. Resnick fascinated with the children there and drawn to a career in both regular and special education.

That was more than three decades ago. In the time since, Mrs. Resnick has used her creativity and enthusiasm to live out her motto, ‘If you can reach students, you can teach them.” Along the way, she has enhanced the quality of life for thousands of students who have passed through her classrooms.

In all she does, Mrs. Resnick attempts to create a sense of community. Whether it is through a standard classroom lesson, through her work with a math tutoring club, or in her role as a group leader for the Johns Hopkins Math Engineering Science Achievement afterschool club, Mrs. Resnick engages students, parents, and teachers in a collaborative effort to further achievement.

In her junior year in high school, one of Dr. Elaine Sutton Robertson’s teachers asked her to help tutor another student with one-on-one instruction. She found great satisfaction in that endeavor, and hasn’t stopped teaching since.

In a 35-year career that has seen her spend 26 years at Severna Park High School, Dr. Robertson’s mathematics classes are ones where the expectations are high, but so is the quality of instruction. She believes that every student can achieve, and most leave her class well prepared for higher level math courses and for college.

She has been a class sponsor for four graduating classes, was the lead teacher for the school’s Algebra II team, and has sponsored the school’s Ebony Club.

When she’s not teaching, Dr. Robertson is deeply involved in the community outreach efforts of the Omicron Gamma Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. The group is focused on financial literacy and has sponsored such programs as financial planning workshops geared to children and adults, tutoring groups for fourth- and fifth-graders, and a reading academy for elementary school children.

Elaine Sutton Robertson
Severna Park High School

“The process by which I work to stimulate student learning is unique to each individual. While students must ultimately take responsibility for their own learning, a teacher can often inspire their desire to learn.”

Elaine Sutton Robertson

honorees continued
“Teachers are responsible for engaging students in active learning. In my classroom, readers read, writers write, mathematicians solve problems, and scientists conduct experiments. In other words, children learn best by doing. When a teacher is having a good time teaching, students will enjoy learning.”

For Tara Rose, there is one essential element above all others in successful teaching: collaboration. Mrs. Rose applies this to teachers as well as students. “Everyone’s learning is enhanced by working with others,” she says.

In her 11-year career, the last eight at Richard Henry Lee, Mrs. Rose, a National Board Certified Teacher, has actively engaged her students as well as her colleagues. Her ability to differentiate instruction has allowed for the high achievement of students of varying abilities in the same classroom.

A school leader in the use of instructional technology, Mrs. Rose couples it with standard educational approaches to keep students engaged and excited about the subject at hand. She also educates other staff members on ways to maximize technology in their classrooms.

Mrs. Rose also strives to be a role model for fellow teachers. She has served as a mentor for teachers new to Richard Henry Lee, and has been a cooperating teacher for student interns from Goucher College and Towson University.

“A teacher teaches, coaches, guides, and inspires. I believe teaching is a gift. A teacher shapes the future leaders of our global community. In a classroom, children learn the skills necessary to become anything they wish to be. As a teacher, it is my responsibility to provide every child with the tools they need to learn to the best of their ability.”

Michele Russo splits her time between Park and Brock Bridge elementary schools, but the students in all of her classes have one thing in common: They receive dynamic and engaging lessons that feature interactive participation and enable students to learn in different ways. In the process, Ms. Russo is able to bring out the best in all of her students, be they shy and uncertain or outgoing and confident.

Ms. Russo makes it a point to make time for parents, and no question or concern is taken lightly. By making herself accessible, she creates partnerships with parents that help further home-school relationships and further increase achievement for students.

As a Talent Development teacher, Ms. Russo also plans and co-teaches lessons with teachers in second through fifth grade that provide increased rigor for all students. She also routinely brings new ideas and approaches to the attention of fellow teachers, and has assisted in organizing events like MSA Family Nights and Math Enrichment Nights.

“As a teacher in an elective area most think of as a ‘shop class,’ I work hard to prove that my students are achieving more and learning as much as they are in any other class in school. In English class, a student must master reading and writing; in math, algebra and geometry, and so on and so forth. In my class, they must master all of these areas and be able to apply them and reflect on that application.”

Though he’s been at South River High School for just two years, Ryan Sackett has already made his mark. Mr. Sackett draws on his Army experience, which includes five years of teaching, to impart real-world scenarios in his instruction.

He coordinates the school’s Project Lead The Way program and is chairman of the evolving Technology Education department. Mr. Sackett also sponsors the school’s robotics team, a position that is almost a second full-time job in itself. In addition, he has taught summer bridge courses for the county’s first Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) magnet program and has been an integral part of the implementation of the STEM program at South River.

A tour of active duty in Iraq led Mr. Sackett to realize “that most young people in the United States have no comprehension of how the world works around them.” That has led him to approach his role as one of educating the whole student because, as he says, “once they realize the importance of information that they are learning and become invested, they perform at a much higher level.”
Amanda Salveron  
North Glen Elementary School  

“I believe all students can learn and achieve success in a classroom with high expectations. As a teacher, it is my responsibility to learn about the whole child. Not all students learn in the same way, and teachers must continually explore new ways to reach each student using a variety of teaching styles to help all students learn.”

Amanda Salveron firmly believes she was born to be a teacher and make a difference in the lives of children. While her high school classmates may have had several different career options, Mrs. Salveron never considered another profession. She began her county career in 2000 at Brooklyn Park Elementary before moving to North Glen Elementary in 2006.

As the Title I Math Intervention Specialist, Mrs. Salveron is the instructional leader for mathematics at North Glen. Her work with small groups of children helps them become better learners, and her willingness to collaborate with teachers leads to better instruction throughout the school.

Perhaps her biggest asset, her colleagues say, is her compassion for children. She realizes that despite hardships many students may face, she can be a source of hope and inspiration. Her positive outlook and encouragement has turned many bad days into good ones for students.

Outside of school, Mrs. Salveron continues to find time to help children. She has taught Vacation Bible School classes, a Divorce Care For Kids program, and tutored public and private school students during the school year and in the summer.

Lindsay Sapp  
Southgate Elementary School  

“Teaching, by definition, is ‘to cause to know how.’ But teaching is so much more than this. As a teacher, you must be a temporary mother, a doctor, a psychiatrist, a mentor, a disciplinarian, a motivator, a role model to 25 kids each day. This is teaching. As a teacher, I hope to plant a seed in all of my students. It is my job then to water it and help it grow.”

Lindsey Sapp makes learning fun for her fourth-grade students. From popcorn parties to a “Celebrity of the Week” to a Wall of Fame filled with top papers from students, Ms. Sapp uses every possible angle to engage her students in the learning process. Every day, students know Ms. Sapp will bring commitment, high expectations, fairness, and compassion, and expect the same things in return.

One of Ms. Sapp’s biggest sources of satisfaction comes from her sponsorship of the school’s Debate Club. Through it, she is able to engage students, parents, and the school community in real-world discussions that have an impact far beyond the classroom. Ms. Sapp also implemented the school’s “Tiger Bucks” program in which students are rewarded for positive behavior and completing assigned tasks. Students can redeem their rewards for incentive prizes throughout the year.

Ms. Sapp has volunteered for many PTA activities to strengthen relationships with parents and the school community. These have included the Fall Festival and Spring Fling as well as reading and math nights that help students strengthen their skills.

Judith Schmid  
Jacobsville Elementary School  

“My philosophy of being an educator goes beyond the gym. I hope that as an educator I am able to teach children to make wise choices as they embark on their path through childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and beyond. As a physical educator I hope to instill the value of exercise and a healthy lifestyle through the participation of developmentally appropriate physical activities.”

A National Board Certified Teacher, Judith Schmid has spent all 25 years of her career at Jacobsville Elementary School. In that time, she has taught several generations of the same families the integral parts of maintaining healthy lifestyles.

Her classes go far beyond just physical exercise, however. Ms. Schmid teaches social skills and responsibility, giving students the opportunity to be “gym helpers” who assist in setting up the gym before school or putting away materials at the end of the day.

She also has implemented Sport Stacking at the school, and formed a club whose members meet every Friday morning before school to practice their craft. The team has competed in many tournaments, and was recently featured on the Channel 5 news.

Ms. Schmid also is a great resource for her colleagues. She has been a mentor teacher, led staff development sessions, and served on the School Improvement Team and cultural arts team. She also has sponsored several physical education and dance clubs at the school over the years.
Marianne Shultz
Northeast High School

“(Students) need to feel that they are valued and important to the class and the teacher. Their individual styles of learning and their individual needs should be taken into consideration when planning and teaching. Once that nurturing has taken place, the students’ relationship with their teacher has evolved into one of respect and trust that brings them one step closer to success.”

Marianne Shultz has been helping students in physical education and health classrooms for more than two decades, but the passion and excitement she had on the first day of her first year is still present today. Aiming to make her classes about more than just the subject matter, Shultz approaches her lessons the same way she approaches life: with an eagerness to gain knowledge that will carry far beyond the classroom.

Shultz has been Northeast High School’s athletic director since 2005. She previously served as the school’s softball coach, where her teams won state championships in 1991 and 1999, and has also coached soccer, indoor and outdoor track, field hockey, and basketball.

Somehow, Shultz finds time to volunteer for a variety of scholarship committees and as a representative on several state sports committees.

On her resume, Ms. Shultz is a physical education teacher and the athletic director at Northeast High School,” Principal Kathy Kubic wrote in her nomination letter. “In reality, she is the spirit of our school community.”

Kelly Sienkiewicz
Fort Smallwood Elementary School

“I believe that teaching should be full of energy. Students will learn better if they are engaged in the topic. I make sure to make real-life connections to the curriculum as much as possible.”

In her decade in the classroom, Kelly Sienkiewicz has employed a “friendly but firm” approach to help push her students to be the best they can be. She implements a variety of teaching strategies to help students across the spectrum. She serves as the school’s primary level science lead teacher, and also has taken a lead in implementing team teaching strategies.

In addition to helping students with their academics, Mrs. Sienkiewicz is quick to lend a hand on a personal level. When one student was going through a particularly tough time at home, she made the student a “helper” and gave her responsibilities that diverted attention on the issues at home and gave the student a sense of further accomplishment at school.

Mrs. Sienkiewicz also has been a key supporter of the school’s off-site parent meetings, which are aimed at increasing parental engagement in school activities.

She believes strongly in supporting her students inside and outside the classroom. She loves to see the reaction on students’ faces when she shows up at an afterschool function. “It lets you know that they do appreciate you,” she says.

Karen S. Simmons
Chesapeake High School

“The thing I am most proud of in my career is the decisions made by some of my students to make their life’s work the same as mine. I know at least six former students who went on to become well-established music teachers loved by their own students, making marvelous music, and sharing their passion.”

Although she has spent countless hours studying and playing music to become an excellent music educator, Karen Simmons gives credit to her high school choral director for helping her make her career decision. “He made me realize that teaching music could be cool,” she said. That was 35 years ago, and Simmons has done her best to remain “cool” over time. The unusually high chorus class enrollments are a testament to how “cool” the students at Chesapeake High School perceive her to be. She started her career at Southern Middle School, made a brief stop for six years at George Fox Middle School, and made Chesapeake High School her musical haven 19 years ago.

As director of the school’s vocal ensemble and advisor of the drama club, Simmons spends most evenings and weekends at the school. Her hard work is noticed as her vocal ensemble is asked year after year to perform a cadre of holiday selections at the Board of Education administration building. Simmons has earned many local awards and national acknowledgement. She is currently pursuing National Board Certification.
Stacey Smith
Southern High School

“My commitment and connection to students is the baseline for all I do. I do whatever it takes.”

Growing up under challenging circumstances that included a father who needed round-the-clock care and a brother with special needs, Stacey Smith draws from her mother’s tenacity to do whatever it took to support the needs of everyone in her family. With a “whatever it takes” attitude, it’s no wonder that Southern High School Principal Maryalice Todd and former principal Jason Dykstra both describe Smith as the ultimate personification of “failure is not an option.” As part of a core of teachers dedicated to improving the school’s math performance, Smith has been instrumental in leading students to score better on the Algebra High School Assessment - from 78 percent advanced and proficient to 98 percent in two years.

Among Smith’s ten years of teaching experience, she’s spent five in elementary, two in middle, and three at the high school level. Such experience has given her a full spectrum of understanding the needs of and solutions for instructing each child in a unique way. She extends her philosophies beyond the classroom by sharing her personable, compassionate, and competitive nature as head coach of Southern High School’s girls’ junior varsity soccer team, assistant coach of the varsity softball team, and through sports mentoring to young girls in the South County community.

Renee Stout
North County High School

“Students learn by example, so to create a rapport with students I feel it is important to be dependable. Being there to truly listen and genuinely laugh in learning allow for relationships to build.”

To not only be a successful educator, but also an influential person, nine-year teaching veteran Renee Stout lives by the motto, “Do as I do.” She believes that being a good person is at the core of doing anything well, so she’s given equal attention to the academic and social development of her students. Her appointment as North County High School’s AVID coordinator two years ago is the perfect match for her instructional philosophy and the program’s talented students with untapped potential.

Expanding her reach beyond the classroom by creating various community service projects, Stout also expands the capacity of her students’ abilities to give back to the community. From arranging projects for children in emergency situations, to organizing a Toys for Tots drive, to providing care packages to local shelters, she has taken being a positive role model to her students to heart.
Cathy Strickler
Solley Elementary School

“My personal rewards in teaching are derived from watching a class of students jump out of their seats to respond to a question, to scratch their heads in wonderment, to formulate their own questions to answer, to smile with pride at their products, and to greet me with enthusiasm and ask when I’m coming back into their classrooms.”

With more than 16 years of classroom experience under her belt, Cathy Strickler has used many tactics in the effort to provide rigor and cultivate the talents of her students. As a talent development teacher at Solley Elementary School, a position she’s held for four years, Strickler has found the perfect place to use her knack for motivating students to bring out their own great abilities.

As a National Board Certified teacher, Strickler has fully embraced what earning the teaching profession’s highest credential is all about. She believes in the program’s thorough methods so much that she has participated in trips to Capitol Hill to promote the significance of National Board Certification. Her passion extends from a belief that educators should be held accountable as the type of people who motivate and inspire their students to learn.

Jennifer Sturgell
Shady Side Elementary School

“My sister once told me, ‘With a job like teaching, it is not about thinking with your brains, it’s about thinking with your heart.’... Her words continued to play over and over in my head and heart... I knew what I had to do.”

Jennifer Sturgell has been on the staff at Shady Side Elementary School for the past 13 years, teaching first and second grades for three and nine years, respectively. This school year, she decided to share her love for all things Shady Side with a group of third graders who are just as enthusiastic as she is.

“Shady Side is a very special place that is close to my heart,” she said. “Not only did I go to school here and now teach in this community, but my family is from here.” Naturally, she extends her talents beyond the classroom by immersing herself in community service projects. As the teacher representative of the school’s PTO, she helped raise more than $30,000 for a new playground and has held leadership roles on other church and community committees to raise funds for enhanced technology at the school.

Quinn Swain
Tyler Heights Elementary School

“My students develop respect for themselves and others, and they learn to make positive choices that carry over to the challenges they experience every day outside of school.”

Although Quinn Swain has followed in her mother’s footsteps to become a teacher, she has managed to blaze her own trail in the profession. As a young teacher in Baltimore City just eight years ago, she felt it was her “calling” to make a difference in the lives of students with socioeconomic challenges. She was convinced they should be afforded an adequate education and disheartened by the disparities that existed for many of them. Since then, she has always chosen to give her talents to students at Title I schools. These students consistently perform well on state assessments.

Swain makes it a point to be involved in every aspect of her students’ lives, setting an example of good character and generosity. She often attends their sporting events, makes home visits, and takes them on weekend excursions. Taking particular interest in a student who had been known to make poor decisions in school, Swain’s impact on him is evident. He recently shared that “Mrs. Swain has made me a better person.”
Stacey Swingle
Oakwood Elementary School

“In her current position as county reading teacher, there is only one motto that she lives by: “What more can I do for our students?””

After being displaced in a below average class in the sixth grade, Stacey Swingle was determined to prove her abilities otherwise. She worked hard and was vindicated with college preparatory courses in high school, but she vowed never to let a child feel the discouragement that she felt. Having taught on numerous grade levels throughout her 19-year career, Swingle has taken particular interest in literacy and has helped shape positive attitudes toward reading for many young people. As a county reading resource teacher, she is able to reach more children in many classrooms. In the summer, she conducts a program that includes literacy activities and gives students an opportunity to earn free books to add to their home libraries.

As a member of the Board of Directors for Glen Burnie Park Swim Club, a Sunday school teacher at her church, and a Girl Scout troop leader, she encourages her students in her community as well. “Through these expanded relationships with various aspects of the community, my students are able to see me as a mom, as a community leader, and a positive person beyond their teacher at school.”

Carrie Weimer
Fort Smallwood Elementary School

“I told Mrs. Weimer that I didn’t know how much money she made, but I knew it definitely wasn’t enough. How can you put a price on a person that has such a positive influence on a five-year-old child’s view of himself, education, and his future?”

She has eight years of teaching experience and is certified in three states. Carrie Weimer doesn’t just teach, she personifies the profession as evidenced by her determination to get into the classroom no matter where she is.

Impassioned to set a positive tone for lifelong learning as an early childhood education enthusiast, Weimer takes great pride in being one of the first people to touch a child’s thoughts, shape their attitudes, and set an example of good character.

Although they are some of the youngest people in the school, Weimer makes sure that her students are actively involved in the school’s community service projects. Her class makes significant contributions to the Harvest for the Hungry food drive and her students collected stuffed animals and books for children of domestic violence victims.

Bonnie Weinhold
Crofton Meadows Elementary School

“...it was my mother who inspired me to love life and learning. Although she was not a college graduate, she was a model teacher... Her encouragement, time spent with me, and availability to talk and answer my questions laid the groundwork for my love of life, learning, and teaching.”

Greeting some of the first students to walk through the doors of a brand new Crofton Meadows Elementary School in 1989, it is an understatement to say that Bonnie Weinhold has quite a stake in the school and the Crofton community. The literacy advocate has created the very popular and successful Operation Read program, which conducts literacy workshops, funds summer camps for struggling beginning readers, and provides more than 350 literacy packages for about 120 families to take the guesswork out of making appropriate book selections for their children.

Weinhold’s impact on the community is equally felt as she has developed the Read to the Lambs program, a mirror of Operation Read, at her church, Grace Lutheran. Through this project, she has affected hundreds more children. This fall, the 31-year veteran will expand her outreach to struggling readers by running a free tutoring clinic.
Alyssa Wiles
Quarterfield Elementary School

“If my generation has a single goal, it must be to promote education — education that advances us not only technologically, but also intuitively and emotionally.”

Alyssa Wiles has made the most of her five years in the profession by teaching three different grades at Quarterfield Elementary School, and taking her students to far-away places with stories of her travels abroad. A visit to Vietnam interacting with many impoverished children, has incited Wiles’ desire to impart deep understanding of human commonalities and differences and cross-cultural perspectives with her students.

Last year, Wiles led 20 students in the O Ambassadors program, which seeks to inspire young people to become active, compassionate, knowledgeable global citizens. By focusing on poverty, education, health, and sustainable development in Southeast Asia and bringing awareness to these issues among their families and friends, the students set out to show that a better future is possible for everyone.

“Mrs. Wiles’ has the uncanny ability to get her students excited about learning and engages them with hands-on activities to make their imaginations soar,” wrote a parent of one of Wiles’ students.

Wiles learned the nuances of the Smart Board and assisted other staff in learning to use the technology. She also prompted the PTA to purchase additional SmartBoards as well as other technology for Quarterfield.

Cathy Wiley
Old Mill High School

“The beauty of Mrs. Wiley’s planning is that she benefits so many; through the rich independence and labor of her students, they have the chance to improve our world.”

A change in profession after 21 years in the aviation industry has brought Cathy Wiley back to her childhood. As young as the age of 4, Wiley would help take care of her infant neighbor with Down Syndrome and a cousin with special needs. Her current position as a functional life skills teacher at Old Mill High School takes full advantage of her talents. She helps show students with developmental challenges how to be more independent at school, at vocational sites, and in the community, integrating social skills into all lessons.

Through complete involvement in school service projects, Wiley makes sure her students, as well as their peers, understand and take the value in the importance of community. In addition to selling cookies to raise money for field trips and supplies, her students are responsible for managing the school-wide recycling program that Wiley established. The effort has brought camaraderie and acceptance among the school’s staff and students and allows everyone to contribute to the greater good.
Ellen Pultro  
Saint Philip Neri Catholic School

"The students’ love and respect for Ellen is quite evident. They know that she believes in them and that her ‘firm, but kind’ discipline is because of that belief in them. She expects the best and as a result, they expect the best from themselves."

After a successful career in the business world, Ellen Pultro refocused her energy as a fifth-grade teacher with a desire to adequately prepare young people for middle school. It has been ten years since she has made the switch and many young people have reaped the benefits. She has made it her mission to stay abreast of the latest trends and resources in education so that she can provide well-researched and plentiful opportunities for learning to her students.

Although her great sense of humor is well known, she is very serious about creating excitement in the classroom. The lengths to which she goes to create fun, concise, and active lessons and her overall enthusiasm have infected her colleagues as well.

James Roberson  
St. Andrew’s United Methodist Day School

"His quiet demeanor, integrity, and genuine compassion are a guiding light for the turmoil that is sometimes characterized by adolescence. With his lead-by-example character and loving heart, he connects volunteer youth groups with forgotten communities who need not a handout, but a hand up."

Using a background that includes a two-year stint with the Peace Corps and an environmental science background, James Roberson brings unique perspectives and projects to his seventh- and eighth-grade science students at St. Andrew’s United Methodist Day School. In addition to creating partnerships with the National Aquarium to teach students about raising fish to replenish the Chesapeake Bay, his students have also helped the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute raise diamondback terrapins to release into the Chesapeake Bay. These partnerships have allowed the students to apply their textbook knowledge to real-world purpose.

Roberson, however, has not stopped there. Two years ago, he created Club Pollo, an after-school club that raises chickens and goats while focusing on sustainable agriculture. And of course, he’s managed to extend his compassion for the environment to a school-wide effort to make the school a certified Green School last spring.

In his work with the Volunteer In Missions group with the church, he will be taking a group to New Orleans this summer to repair houses damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Christine Shea  
The Summit School

“Mrs. Shea has taught our students that reading not only opens up their world, but their hard work can improve the lives of many others who are much less fortunate."

Christine Shea brings 26 years worth of life lessons and love of learning to her classroom every day. Since 2000, she has taught students with dyslexia and other learning differences in grades three through eight at The Summit School. Additionally, she has taken the lead in administering the school’s Transition to High School program for the school’s eighth graders. Her zeal for teaching students with learning differences shines in the creativity of her lessons and approach to meeting her students’ challenges.

“When reading is difficult, I say, ‘It’s easy. Let’s just act it out!’ " She also incorporates pop culture and current youth interests into her lessons to motivate her students.

As the president of the Anne Arundel County Chapter of Amnesty International, she has taken her role in the community very seriously, but has also managed to bring sensitivity to the school. To enhance the school’s reading incentive program, she initiated the Hoof Prints program, in which students earn points through reading to buy animals for families in Third World countries through the Heifer International initiative.
Balanced Life Skills
Joe Van Deuren, Owner

Nominated by: Linda Lamon, Signature Program Facilitator, South River High School

Mr. Van Deuren firmly believes that “it takes a village to raise a child” and sees himself as part of that village. He has been instrumental in developing and sustaining a number of valuable programs that help the members of the AACPS community. They include a stormwater recycling project; a program for students to design placemats and deliver them to senior citizens; and the “Help A Teacher” Web site, which provides teachers with their wish lists. According to Loretta Manoogian, a South River Business Advisory Board member, “Joe Van Deuren's dedication goes much deeper than simply wanting to volunteer- he wants to make a difference.” Albert Einstein once said, “It is every man's obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he takes out of it.” Joe Van Deuren puts back much more.

Barnes & Noble, Annapolis
Darlene Swanson, Manager

Nominated by: Kim Bibeault, Teacher, Marley Elementary School

During the holiday season, Barnes & Noble publicized the need for books at Marley Elementary School. Ms. Swanson posted signs asking her patrons to purchase books for the students. Through this publicity and Ms. Swanson's urging, many books were donated. As a result of this generosity, all parents who attended Marley Elementary School's reading night were given a book to wrap and give to their child. In addition, Ms. Swanson has provided guidance about book selections that supported the reading teachers' efforts to purchase more books. Many children at Marley Elementary School are on the road to becoming lifelong readers as a result of her commitment.

Development Facilitators, Inc.
Raymond E. Streib, President

Nominated by: Joyce Coleman, Signature Program Facilitator, North County High School

Before North County High School was identified as the first Anne Arundel County public school to host the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Magnet, Ray Streib had already launched and staffed diverse teams of engineers to present information to students about a variety of occupations in civil engineering. Mr. Streib has brought two “Civil Engineering Expos” to North County High School. The presentations were designed to present “real world” learning without sacrificing conceptual and theoretical basics. Mr. Streib has been a loyal community partner not only with North County High School, but to Anne Arundel County Public Schools for many years. He has tirelessly supported and collaborated with other organizations to bring many school partnerships together to serve our youth. These partnerships have increased the students' connections to adults and fostered the academic and work-related competencies they need to succeed.
La Fontaine Bleue
Thomas E. Stuehler

Nominated by: Walter Jackson, Principal, Park Elementary School

For the past 14 years, La Fontaine Bleue has provided the students at Park Elementary School with an incentive program to promote perfect attendance and support academic achievement. After each marking period, students who have achieved the honor roll or had perfect attendance are rewarded with a luncheon and individual recognition at La Fontaine Bleue. At the close of the school year, students who have achieved the honor roll or perfect attendance for all four marking periods are invited for a family luncheon. This business partnership has a tremendous impact on the students at Park, helping to motivate students to achieve perfect attendance and excel academically.

Delegate Nicholaus Kipke
Maryland House of Delegates

Nominated by: Amy Lewis, Teacher, Freetown Elementary School

Delegate Nic Kipke is an active member of the school community. Earlier this year, Amy Lewis, a fifth-grade teacher at Freetown Elementary, wrote to Del. Kipke outlining a field trip she wanted her children to experience. Within days, Del. Kipke had organized sponsorships for the trip to the Living Classrooms Foundation allowing students to experience sailing on the local water and other opportunities they would never have the advantage of on a daily basis. Fifty students were able to enjoy their day on the bay without contributing a cent. Del. Kipke also provided T-shirts for all students and adults. The T-shirts became a special memento due to a student-designed emblem that was placed on the front of the shirts. Along with being a supporter of Freetown’s fifth-grade class, Del. Kipke has also spoken to fourth-graders about the branches of government and donated an American Flag and a Maryland State Flag at Freetown’s Spirit Assembly.

PNC Bank
Jasharma Bowman, Branch Manager

Nominated by: Judy Jacobs, Guidance Counselor, and Joan Briscoe, Principal, Brock Bridge Elementary School

The PNC School Bank Program encourages elementary and middle school students to develop an interest in saving and banking. The program allows students to save in a real savings account and gives them hands-on experience with using bank accounts and the banking system. Student tellers handle small cash and check deposits from the other students and follow standard bank procedures including providing receipts. During this process, students are also expected to improve their math skills as they track their savings and calculate interest earned. Other benefits include developing money management and financial responsibility skills.
Regal Decision Systems, Inc.
Joel Borkoski, Jr., President

Nominated by: William Sheppard, Signature Program Facilitator, Meade High School

Joel Borkoski has been instrumental in getting the Meade Homeland Security Signature Program off the ground. The program has received tremendous positive recognition around the county and state and Mr. Borkoski has had a lot to do with that success. Mr. Borkoski and Regal Decisions are involved in a number of support initiatives. They write curriculum modules, donate time and expertise, allow students to work with their million-dollar software, provide guest speaking opportunities, make plans to offer internships, and facilitate connections with other professionals in the homeland security field. To date, the program has hosted more than 25 guest speakers and students have taken ten field trips, all made possible by Mr. Borkoski and the other members of the Integrated Community Stakeholders Team.

Reilly Benefits, Inc.
David and Amy Reilly, Owners

Nominated by: Marilyn Harmon, Signature Program Facilitator, Southern High School

David and Amy Reilly are a source of strength and a model of excellence in the community. The partnership between Reilly Benefits and Southern High School has produced leading-edge programs throughout our county and made a lasting imprint on the school and Southern's students. The Reillys were instrumental in establishing the Southern Business Advisory Board and the county's first Career and College Center. The board built a partnership with Anne Arundel Community College, supported a school-wide speakers program, conducted mock interviews, managed fundraising, offered scholarships, mentored interns, showcased CAT-South, promoted teacher recognition, and sponsored the freshmen portfolio initiative. The Career and College Center provides the services and resources needed to plan for life after high school for students and their families. The Reillys' eight-year tenure as Business Advisory Board presidents and business partners with the school demonstrate their command of what it takes to be excellent and to build a community that raises our children.

Sidus Group
Mark Powell, CEO

Nominated by: Patrick Bathras, Principal, Severna Park High School

It all began when Mark Powell contacted Severna Park High's principal to offer the Sidus Group's services to collaborate with SPHS staff to redesign and host the high school's web site. The Sidus Group helped Severna Park streamline information, design a new look, and make the site an integral piece of communication for parents, teachers, and administrators. Since then, Mr. Powell has continued to be of service to Severna Park in other areas. He is a strong supporter of the Severna Park High School's Leadership Institute, which strives to develop a positive attitude and spirit among students and promote high moral character, civic mindedness, self-reliance, and service for the improvement of school and community. In December, Mr. Powell planned and facilitated the seminar for Leadership Institute. The seminar was a huge success due to its relevant, challenging, and hands-on nature.
Businesses over 50 Employees:

**Bowie Baysox**
Brian Shallcross, General Manager

_Nominated by: Ed Johnson, Principal, and Mary Ellen Mulvaney, Reading Teacher, Fort Smallwood Elementary School_

The Fort Smallwood Elementary School community is very sports-minded and having a team like the Bowie Baysox involved in the school reading program has greatly increased the male participation in reading incentives. Throughout Anne Arundel and surrounding counties, the Bowie Baysox team sponsors a reading program that rewards each student who reads three books with a Bowie Baysox ticket for a game. In addition, the team runs a poster design contest that teachers use to track the number of books each student reads. Mr. Shallcross has also supported other reading programs at the school. Mr. Shallcross and the Baysox mascot, Louie, have appeared at several events to encourage students. Mr. Shallcross also participates in Guest Reader Days at Fort Smallwood. He always replies with, “Whatever you need” or “I’m in” when invited to participate in various programs at Fort Smallwood Elementary School.

**Cheeseburger In Paradise**
John Sparkman, III, Managing Partner

_Nominated by: Dr. Kathy Kubic, Principal, Northeast High School_

The managers at Cheeseburger in Paradise have consistently provided incentives for Northeast High School and other students who achieve academic success. In addition, they have provided staff with coupons and gift cards to show an appreciation for teachers. For two years, Cheeseburger in Paradise has held annual “First Step” lunches, which recognize fifth-graders from nine public and two private schools in the Pasadena area with a full reception lunch if they have earned straight A’s in at least two out of three marking periods. The word has quickly spread and students are excitedly working toward reaching the straight-A goal.

**Gold’s Gym in Crofton**
Brian Griffin, Manager

_Nominated by: Diana Strohecker, Principal; Sara Pickens, Assistant Principal; and Charmain Sutherland, Physical Education Teacher, Nantucket Elementary School_

Meaningful partnerships between businesses and schools go beyond a onetime donation or gift. That is why the year-long relationship between Gold’s Gym of Crofton and the new Nantucket Elementary School is unique. As the school year began, fitness instructors from Gold’s traveled to the Nantucket gym to offer free, weekly aerobics classes for the entire staff. They continued their support of staff wellness by allowing periodic free visits to Gold’s gym in Crofton to use state-of-the-art equipment and weights. In December, inspired by the wellness initiatives started at Gold’s, 15 staff members trained and ran in the St. Patrick’s Day 5K run in Baltimore. Together with the manager of Gold’s Gym, the staff cleaned out a large, unused storage closet at the school, and obtained gently used treadmills, free weights, and elliptical machines to make a mini-gym for staff use.

The Gold’s partnership extends to students as well. Every Thursday, Gold’s Gym sends a fitness instructor for a recess “Strong Kids Recess Program” for all grade levels. Gold’s Gym donated an automatic external defibrillator for the gym in the event of a heart-related emergency during school or at after school and weekend athletic events. The staff at Gold’s gym has every intention of a continuing, long lasting partnership with the students, staff, and community of Nantucket Elementary.
Anne Arundel County

Business Partnership Awards

Ledo Pizza
Martin Gorman, Owner

Nominated by: M. Jacques Smith, Principal; and Janice Toree, Business Manager, Chesapeake Bay Middle School

Ledo Pizza has been collaborating with Anne Arundel County schools on fund-raising efforts for years. The restaurant donates a percentage of all the sales during their fund-raising nights to the schools. At Chesapeake Bay Middle School, these monies are used to purchase rewards for the Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS) program. These rewards have enhanced and impacted student learning and performance by supporting the goals of the program, which encourages students to make appropriate decisions and follow rules.

Manekin, LLC
Kim Dorman, Asset Manager, and Shelly Altman, Property Manager

Nominated by: Barry J. Fader, Principal, Edgewater Elementary School

In November 2008, the 11 schools that make up the South River High School feeder system hosted an Education Expo on Main Street at the Villages at South River Colony shopping center. The students and teachers showcased their talents through dance, choral, instrumental, and theatrical performances. Students also engaged the public through hands-on demonstrations and artwork displays. All of this was made possible through the partnership formed with Kim Dorman and Shelly Altman of Manekin, Inc., which manages the South River Colony property. Ms. Dorman and Ms. Altman worked tirelessly to showcase the students and promote the stores within the shopping center. They put in countless hours working with the merchants, the police department, advertisers, and providing on-site assistance for the Education Expo. The successful event drew a crowd of more than 1,000 students and adults.

Northrop Grumman Corporation
Mark Butler, Manager, Far Field Antenna Test Ranges

Nominated by: Patrick Bathras, Principal, Severna Park High School

Mark Butler and Northrop Grumman have contributed greatly to several Severna Park High School programs over the years including Project Lead the Way (pre-engineering program), the Leadership Institute, the Business Advisory Board, and mock interviews. In addition, Mr. Butler was a founding member of Falcon Flight (a support group for African-American students) and has served on the Severna Park High School Citizens Advisory Committee. This year, Mr. Butler is mentoring a new group of Engineering Development and Design Students. Mr. Butler is an amazing resource to have. He arranged for Northrop Grumman to donate two mail robots to SPHS for use on our project to build a prototype of a robotic trash can for the school cafeteria. He works to improve student achievement and to empower all students to develop their vision for a satisfying and productive career.
Northrop Grumman Corporation

Kevin Wilson, Manager, EEO/Diversity

Nominated by: Christopher Woolseyhand, Principal, Hillsmere Elementary School

A dedicated group of Northrop Grumman employees have given their time and effort to make a difference in the lives of students at Hillsmere Elementary School. In January of 2007, Northrop Grumman contacted Hillsmere with an offer to assist in any way possible. After discussing the school's needs, Northrop Grumman employees enthusiastically provided physical resources for Robinwood residents and developed nurturing relationships with students. The company financed a complete renovation of the computer lab, Head Start room, and kitchen at the recreation center. Students from Robinwood now have three state-of-the-art community facilities. Northrop Grumman also formed a mentoring program for African-American children living in Robinwood who attend Hillsmere. The mentoring program seeks to establish a meaningful relationship between African-American men and women employed by Northrop Grumman and students who often lack significant role models in their lives. The company also offers parent education classes at the Robinwood facility.

Toyota Motor Sales, Parts Distribution Center

Lou Pugliese, National Manager

Nominated by: Ginnie Langford, Signature Program Facilitator, Old Mill High School

Lou Pugliese volunteers with many initiatives at Old Mill High School, including conducting mock interviews to help students get ready for the workforce and/or college. He help students understand the relationship between the skills they learn in school and the skills needed in the workforce by volunteering with the Old Mill Next Step Program to help implement a lesson on this subject. He takes time out of his busy schedule to tutor students who are struggling to understand how to study and be successful. He currently serves as the spokesman for the AVID program at Old Mill and is often recruiting others to volunteer. He also serves on the Old Mill Business Advisory Board, and recently found the time and commitment to sponsor part of a continuing education experience for teachers in Anne Arundel County. Additionally, he involved his company and co-workers in an initiative to sponsor transportation costs for musical programs at two county schools. Mr. Pugliese’s participation with various initiatives will continue to profoundly impact the programs, the teachers, and the success of the students at Old Mill High School.

Under Armour

Ryan McGarry, Supply Chain Process Engineer

Nominated by: Carol Ann McCurdy, Coordinator of Academic Support, Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Ryan McGarry may have thought he was simply going to spend some time as a guest speaker representing Under Armour in a few classrooms, but he soon realized the importance and impact that volunteering in our schools had on himself and the students. Mr. McGarry was enthralled to see the response from the students and their attentiveness to the message about how to succeed in school and the workforce. He quickly recruited other Under Armour employees to join him in his visits. This diverse group of Under Armour employees has helped students in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program realize the variety of career opportunities that await them and has donated more than 200 hours to the AVID program. Under Armour volunteers have visited 13 middle schools and high schools. The employees now participate in activities such as guest speaking, Junior Achievement, career fairs, and field trips to the Under Armour Distribution House Facility.
Judges for the 2009 Teacher of the Year

Duane Arobgast, AACPS Division of Accountability, Assessment and Research
Richard Benfer, Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County
Beverly Madden, AACPS PTA
Molly Mason, Broadneck High School Student
Diana Strohecker, Association of Educational Leaders
Brandi Ulrich, Sheraton Annapolis Hotel
Garwai Vuong, Severna Park High School Student

Judges for the 2009 Business Partnership Awards

Lise Foran, Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Maureen McMahon, Anne Arundel County Public Schools

The Excellence in Education Committee would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Chamber of Commerce staff, the Education Committee members, the 2009 Judging Panel, Don Cramer and the AACPS Design and Print team, and Bob Mosier and the AACPS Public Information Office team for their time, talents, energy, and support of this event and tonight’s program.

We are very grateful for their dedication to the educators of Anne Arundel County.
Excellence in Education

2009 SPONSORS

A+ Sponsors
Comcast

Honors Sponsors
Anne Arundel Community College
Constellation Energy Group
Greenberg Gibbons Commercial Insurance Solutions, Inc.
Northrop Grumman Corporation
Rocky Gap Resort and Lodge
Severn Savings Bank
Sidus Group
Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County

Host Sponsors
Balanced Life Skills
OMEGACOR Technologies
PNC Bank
Sojourner-Douglass College
Verizon
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
When we take a good look around, the most important things in life come into sharp focus. Like working together with our neighbors to create caring and vital communities where everyone has a chance to thrive. That's the kind of lesson that lasts a lifetime.

Often, it's by enriching another person's life that we learn important lessons about our own.

Focused on Community.