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.
2010
Excellence in Education Awards

Awards for
Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Teacher of the Year

Anne Arundel County
Business Partnerships of the Year
Excellence in Education

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Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County
Varuna Aveda Salon and Spa
Reception/Registration - 6:00
A time for fellowship with colleagues and friends

Seating for Dinner - 6:30
Welcome & Greetings

Dinner - 6:45

Awards Ceremony - 7:30
Honoring Educators
Edward P. “Ned” Carey, 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 2010 Teacher Honorees

2010 Finalists
Dana P. Manojlović, Central Elementary School
Sandra J. Nee-Jackson, Old Mill High School
Laura Pinto, Wiley H. Bates Middle School
Renee Stout, North County High School
Erin Sullivan, Glen Burnie High School

Promoting Partnerships
Presentation of Business Partnership Nominees and Awards

Presentation of the Teacher of the Year Award
2010 Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher of the Year

Closing
Dana P. Manojlović  
Central Elementary School

“My beliefs about teaching include three main objectives. First, students need to learn how to adapt to the ever-changing information of the world by learning problem solving skills to prepare them. Second, students need to find their own style of learning that is successful for them. Third, students need a positive learning environment that supports student comfort.”

Dana Manojlović has only been a classroom teacher for less than a decade now, but she has a lifetime of achievements and memories already. In 2006, she won the Milken Foundation National Teacher Award, and a year later the Milken Foundation selected her for a Festival for Youth “Better Days for the Bay” grant. Last year, she achieved National Board Certified status.

Manojlović is such an inspiration that one of her students expressed a desire to get perfect grades so his “favorite teacher” would know the kind of impact she was having on him. “Finally it happened – my last marking period in third grade I got straight A’s. I hope she was proud of me,” said the fifth grade student.

She has led efforts to raise thousands of dollars for charitable projects at the school and in the community, and even cut ten inches of her own hair on two occasions for Locks of Love.

Sandra J. Nee-Jackson  
Old Mill High School

“As a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, I always seek to see the marvelous possibilities in my students. I strive to inspire the high school students to demonstrate their very best qualities and skills when interacting with young children now and in the future.”

Sandra Nee-Jackson has devoted her heart and soul to Old Mill High School since 1984, after spending the first five years of her career at Southern Middle School and Glen Burnie High School. In 2006, she achieved National Board Certification.

As a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, she has the wonderful opportunity to teach both high school students and preschoolers who attend a preschool program as part of the Child Development class. Under her guidance, those high school students are being taught to teach young children. Some have become teachers in the county.

Her community involvement activities include working with her students to prepare lunches for a local women’s homeless shelter. During the summer of 2009, Nee-Jackson had the opportunity to volunteer at Dibasen Junior Secondary School in Namibia, Africa. With her husband, she brought more than 100 pounds of school and toiletry items, all donated by the faculty and staff of Old Mill High School and members of the Lutheran Church of St. Andrew. She also spoke to students and engaged them in an activity on making wise decisions in their lives.

Former students have written to say how they now realize the benefits they gained from her strenuous expectations and goals. One said: “Because of Ms. Nee-Jackson I feel as if I was better prepared for college life. She makes her students work very hard and I feel that it helped me realize that I can get through all of my work if I just manage my time and work hard. She really helps you get through everything and gives you the confidence that you can do it. Every time I get frustrated I think back to my Child Development days and say “Hey! I can do it. Just look at my portfolio!”
Laura Pinto
Wiley H. Bates Middle School

“Effective teachers are a bit like parasites; we relish and grow through the accomplishments of others…I feel great peace that I will be judged by the achievements of my students.”

Laura Pinto works in a building with a lot of stories to tell. Wiley H. Bates Middle School is the former Annapolis High School site and is named for an African-American businessman who labored for educational equality. As a social studies teacher, Pinto not only thrives off such history, but she is inspired to add to that legacy through her work and that of her students.

Having dubbed the school where she works, “the soul of Annapolis,” she has a firm belief that her role as an educator transcends the walls of the school. “The learning that occurs in my classroom benefits the community, and the service I provide in my community benefits my school,” she says.

While Pinto is popular among students, she has also gained quite a reputation among her peers. Rookie educators inside and outside of her school building are often referred to her, and she has been known to inspire them simply with her gentle, yet firm teaching style. She’s only been in AACPS since 2004, but even more seasoned educators have learned “a great deal about the best of teaching (from observing her),” says a colleague.

Renee Stout
North County High School

“…the teaching profession leaves a legacy, and I celebrate being a teacher thinking about the daily progress of achievement. Each day, teachers are given the task to mentor and inspire; therefore, remaining positive about the ever-changing profession while implementing strong teaching practices and methodologies not only strengthens but (also) improves the teaching profession.”

Renee Stout acknowledges that her will to excel in the classroom can largely be attributed to her mother, a band director and former librarian who was known for her special influence in the lives of young people and for hosting impeccable community functions that brought many people together because of mutual respect.

While her mother provided a great example as an educational leader, Stout has continued the tradition to make sure that her students will be just as inclined to give back to their community. She firmly believes that her job as a role model doesn’t end when the bell rings, so it is important to her that her students see her in the community. Whether it’s a toy or food drive, sorting clothing donations, creating care packages for local shelters, or tutoring at an elementary school, Stout gets her students involved.

Stout’s work in the classroom is equally important. The mere fact that she has chosen to inspire young people who typically are in the academic middle by running the North County High School Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program is a testament to her will for all students to be successful. Many of her students are the first in their families to pursue a college education, and Stout says she is grateful to have the opportunity to help students lay a foundation where “students are creating their future by changing their trajectory.”
Anne Arundel County Finalists

Erin Sullivan
Glen Burnie High School

“When students come to me with their problems, I acknowledge how hard they have to work to overcome them, but I do not allow them to use that as an excuse to be unsuccessful.”

B ringing unique life experiences and seemingly unfamiliar circumstances, Erin Sullivan’s English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students at Glen Burnie High School come from around the globe and speak more than ten different languages. Sullivan encourages her students to be proud of where they are from and the cultural experiences they bring, but above all she focuses on where they are going. She hopes, with her help, she can transform their lives so that they are self-reliant, contributing members of society empowered by the gift of education.

“It is important for (my) students to understand that their lack of English does not mean that they are incapable of completing more demanding work,” Sullivan says. Therefore, she incorporates critical thinking activities into her lessons and emphasizes that the expectations for her students do not differ from students who are more proficient in English.

By establishing the Parent Involvement Program where ESOL parents get important information and can address questions, Sullivan also makes sure that parents do not underestimate the significance of education and the potential opportunities available in their children’s lives.

Sullivan has been at Glen Burnie for the last five years, and her persistence and pushing has paid off. Eleven of her students graduated last year, and nine were first-time graduates in their families. This year, 16 more of her students are on schedule to graduate.

Her passion for her students doesn’t wane when they leave, either. Ten of her former students are currently pursuing post-secondary education, one of whom says: “I always thought in my head that Ms. Sullivan did not have a life or better things to do besides work because she never complained about staying after school to help students with their assignments… (she even helps me now that) I’m a student at Anne Arundel Community College… when I’m having trouble in my college English class.”
Ruthie Bushnell
Riviera Beach Elementary

"Instead of sports units such as soccer, basketball, etc., my teaching units are body composition fitness, strength fitness, and cardiovascular fitness. This learning of prevention techniques at an early age is a very important part of my students' entire educational experience. And both they and I have fun each and every day during their lessons."

Ruthie Bushnell has been a part of Anne Arundel County Public Schools since 1977, and has been a physical education teacher at Riviera Beach Elementary School the entire time. She took her love of the education portion of physical education and developed her own curriculum, which came to be known as “Health on the Move.” That has allowed her to be part of other schools over the last three-plus decades, as well as speaking at numerous educational conferences across the county on the merits of her program.

In her many years in AACPS, she is now earning accolades from a second generation of students and teachers. Former Teacher of the Year and current Health, Physical Education and Dance Coordinator Skip Lee says Bushnell is a “model physical educator who intrinsically encourages a healthy lifestyle and total physical development for children.”

Colleen Cohee
Hilltop Elementary School

“I have chosen to remain in first grade for my entire teaching career because I believe it is a critical year in a student's education where the process of reading is taught in depth. The rewards for me are watching hesitant, unsure students who may not have had previous literacy experience blossom into excited, confident and independent readers during the course of a school year."

Colleen Cohee has taught first grade at Hilltop Elementary School since 1999, but has also taken the time to continue her studies so that she can personally enhance her skills and knowledge. Her postgraduate adventures include becoming a National Board Certified Teacher in 2006 and studying at the Queens University in Belfast, Ireland.

She calls the development of literacy skills among her at-risk first-graders her greatest thrill and achievement in education. Her greatest compliments, she says, come when parents tell her how much more their children are reading for pleasure.

In addition to the passion she demonstrates daily for teaching, she also takes time to volunteer for various holiday fundraisers and charities. When time permits, she is active in the C.S. Lewis Institute of Annapolis.

She is recognized by her principal and director for her own leadership skills and is someone on whom they know they can rely. One parent called her “a consummate professional, a true educator and mentor to our children, and a wonderful friend to the parents who entrust her with their children.”
Anne Arundel County Semi-Finalists

Melissa Cressman
Cape St. Claire Elementary School

“It is very important for me to be a reflective practitioner, and I try to take time at the end of individual lessons or at the end of each day to evaluate the effectiveness of my lessons.”

Melissa Cressman has been a classroom teacher in Anne Arundel County since graduating from college in 2001. She started at Rippling Woods Elementary School before moving to her current post at Cape St. Claire Elementary. She says she felt drawn to the classroom because of the numerous positive experiences she had with teachers during her own educational journey. Since then, her passion for education has only grown stronger.

In her nomination, one parent said, “Melissa embodies all the qualities that any parent or student would hope to find in a teacher: a love for her profession and her students; a willingness to go beyond what the curriculum requires; and an open and honest style of communication.”

Using the knowledge she gained from her own years of playing soccer, Cressman volunteers her time as a girls soccer coach in the Cape St. Claire community. She is also involved in a number of after-school activities, including the 24 Game Club, the Robotics Club, and the Science Fair.

Lisa A. Ferrer
Hillsmere Elementary School

“On more than one occasion, I have stopped mid-lesson to revise it to better meet the children’s needs and learning styles. When planning, I am very aware of the children’s interests, learning styles and developmental levels.”

Lisa Ferrer has nearly 30 years of experience in the classroom, but her time with AACPS began as a substitute reading teacher in 1993. She joined the staff at Hillsmere Elementary School two years later, and has been there since. She is now a National Board Certified teacher who serves as a mentor for other younger teachers, helping impart lessons from the “bag of tricks" she has developed over the years.

As an environmentalist, she has been the catalyst for environmental change on the Hillsmere school grounds through community landscaping projects. In addition to initiatives involving the Chesapeake Bay, Ferrer collaborated with county officials during a road construction project to plan and implement a rain garden and meadow to deal with run-off that resulted in much stronger ties with the school community.

Her peers have noticed and appreciate the way she actively involves her students and gives them a stake in their own educations. “This steady release of responsibility empowers students to completely engage in instruction,” fellow National Board Certified Teacher Jane Robinson Ciupek said.
Anne Arundel County Semi-Finalists

Patricia Ann Kuehne
North County High School

“Just as an electrical appliance or piece of equipment can be ‘turned on’ once the connection is made to a reliable source of energy, I teach with the confidence that students can be ‘turned on’ to learning once the connection is made to a reliable source of instruction.”

Being married to a Naval Officer, Patricia Kuehne has learned the need to adapt quickly to new situations and surroundings. The first two years of her career of teaching mathematics began in Kentucky with two succeeding years of employment with Anne Arundel County Public Schools at MacArthur Middle School.

Military moves to Japan then the Philippines initiated her employment with the Department of Defense Schools before she returned to AACPS almost a decade later for a three year position at Meade High School. With another overseas transfer, she returned to a DODDS teaching position in Spain. A stateside return brought her back to AACPS, where she has been a steady influence at North County High School for the past 18 years.

The depth of her influence can be found in the letter submitted by former student Joey Landgraf that accompanied her nomination. “Good teachers teach, but great teachers inspire,” Joey wrote. “Inspiration to challenge oneself, inspiration to be the best, and inspiration to continue in a subject matter are all results of the actions of a great teacher. Ms. Kuehne would fall into that category.”

With multiple deployments overseas, her opportunities to impact the lives of others as a teacher and as a community member have included diverse global environments and equally diverse demographics of age and socio-economic populations. She received an Outstanding Performance Certificate with the U.S. Navy base in Spain and was a Woman of the Year nominee at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines.

Laura Martien
Nantucket Elementary School

“She is professional yet approachable, metered yet enthusiastic, always supportive yet always willing to challenge, and always willing to go the extra mile (or extra hour) to benefit her students.”

Laura Martien began teaching kindergarten in 1994, and now admits that she didn’t have any idea what to expect. It didn’t take long, however, for her to realize that students were like sponges waiting to soak up knowledge. That, she said, gave her a different perspective on how to teach them.

“My job was to tap into their strengths and interests to make their learning fruitful,” said Martien, who is a National Board Certified Teacher and has been previously nominated for Teacher of the Year.

Wrote a University of Maryland professor: “I have been very impressed with the academic level of the work Ms. Martien routinely coaxes from all of her students. These children are given the skills to handle subjects and concepts, not just 1-2 grade levels ahead, but 3-4 or even more, all based upon the child’s talent.”

In addition to facilitating the 24 Game and mentoring the Lego Robotics Team at her school, she also volunteers at Paul’s Place soup kitchen in Baltimore and for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life. She also is active in the South County Athletic League, where her son plays sports.
Anne Arundel County Semi-Finalists

Sally Mastroberti
Community-based Preschool Special Educator

“It is hard to believe that your disabled child is a blessing when you are learning to deal with their dis- ability, then in walks Sally, who makes you see all the good in what your very special child has to give.”

Sally Mastroberti began her teaching career in the mid-1980s as a physical education instructor before switching to special education and Early Childhood Intervention three years later. She has held her current position since 2003, and in that role she implements Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for preschool students in inclusive settings and provides direct support to the children, their parents, and the teachers or child-care providers within the community.

Mastroberti is a native of Anne Arundel County and a graduate of Southern High School, so she knows many of the families she regularly encounters. She remembers her first teaching “assignment,” which came when her teacher suggested she tutor a fellow student in pre-Algebra. She fell in love with teaching and since then has had a passion for helping bring out the best in developmentally disabled youngsters.

In addition to her educational duties, she is active in her community, including coaching junior varsity lacrosse at Southern High School and working with children at her church.

Jerian Moeller
Lake Shore Elementary School

“Every year, I tell my class that I always get the best class because it’s ‘in my contract,’ and if they were selected to be in my class that means they are very smart and capable. I keep telling them this until they finally believe it’s true.”

Upon returning to the work force full time after the births of her own children, Jerian Moeller has spent her professional years teaching in classrooms at Lake Shore Elementary School. She sees each of those children as her own, and they sometimes feel close enough to her to call her “mom.”

She believes part of that nurturing comes from the feeling of security she felt during her own youth when teachers showed her – a self-described painfully shy child – how to feel welcome and valued. That’s what she tries to do for her own students.

One parent said her daughter blossomed “… due to Mrs. Moeller’s ability to immediately identify my daughter’s strengths and weaknesses, challenging her to grow, where in most environments she would be left behind.”

Her most ambitious project came when she agreed to adopt a 10-year-old child with cerebral palsy who had been a student at her husband’s school. That child is now a successful 19-year-old college freshman.

She also is involved in numerous community outreach projects, including organizing the “Send a Little Love” campaign for a student’s father who was deployed in Iraq.
Karen K. Muir  
George Fox Middle School

“The rewards of teaching are daily and multiple. It's the joy of hearing students passionately discussing challenging issues, a penetrating, insightful question from a quiet student, the smile on a face with the recognition of a job well done. It's the opportunities to learn together every day.”

A veteran of four decades in the classroom, Karen Muir has spent the past 26 years teaching U.S. history and cultural geography and world history to seventh- and eighth-graders in Anne Arundel County. Her inspiration for learning and teaching current events came from sitting at the dining room table as a child and listening to her parents pass along their own knowledge to their children. She says she is so passionate about teaching that she has to catch herself so she doesn't round up middle-school aged kids into class-size groups at the mall.

One recommendation letter read: “Karen is a progressive thinker and possesses an infectious optimism. This exuberance for life inevitably refocuses her students' view of the world. Her broad academic knowledge and professional membership credentials are dwarfed by her sense of compassion and empathy toward others.”

It would be difficult to summarize all of Muir’s volunteer and community-involvement activities, but her favorites include representing middle school social studies teachers on the National Council for Social Studies national board and working with students on service learning projects.

Pamela Osborn  
Fort Smallwood Elementary School

“You can find rewards in teaching every day! The day starts out rewarding when the students enter with smiles on their faces... A warm feeling comes over you when a student recognizes something you taught them earlier... And even though it means you are getting older, it is a grand reward when a former student brings their child into your classroom and states, 'I am glad my child has you as a teacher.' ”

For nearly 23 years, Pamela Osborn has been helping to raise the young people of the Fort Smallwood Elementary School community. Having taught first, second, and fifth grades before settling into pre-kindergarten for the last six years, she enjoys her current role of preparing the school’s youngest learners for a successful journey of achievement.

She has also made it a priority to ensure that the school’s special education students are able to experience the same journey by passionately collaborating with special education teachers to help as many students as possible participate in the same activities. Over the last six years, several students with special needs have been able to transition to a routine in a general classroom, become more independent, and feel comfortable in a mainstream setting.

As a mentor teacher, Osborn feels helping her fellow early childhood education colleagues is also important. She spends time every summer helping to edit, revise, and make additions to the pre-kindergarten technology connections publication that many teachers use throughout the county.
Anne Arundel County Teacher Nominees

Lawrence Ascione
Annapolis Middle School

Grade: 6
Subject: Mathematics
Teaching Experience: 7 years

“Teachers have the responsibility of creating a positive and productive learning environment where respect and trust are mutual, and the skills needed to participate in society are modeled.”

Jordan Bennett
North County High School

Grade(s): 9-12
Subject: Math
Teaching Experience: 8 years

“… if a teacher can build relationships, than any student has the ability to learn and be successful.”

Theresa Bosworth
Deale Elementary School

Grade(s): 1
Subject: Elementary
Teaching Experience: 15 years

“… my philosophy has always been to treat students the way I wished my own children would be treated by their teachers and to treat parents the way I wished teachers would treat me (as a parent).”

Doug Richard Brown
South River High School

Grade(s): 9-12
Subject: Social Studies
Teaching Experience: 13 years

“Rather than just standing in the front of the room and giving notes or having the students complete worksheets, I want to instill in them a ‘what if’ attitude … to ask questions that will open a whole new world of possibilities for them.”

Kim S. Burrows
Lothian Elementary School

Grade(s): 1
Subject: Elementary
Teaching Experience: 13 years

“Teaching should concern itself with the ‘whole’ child. This means not only concentrating on academic areas, but (also) concentrating on their physical and emotional well-being as well.”
Anne Arundel County Teacher Nominees

**Jamie M. Chestnut**
Oakwood Elementary School

Grade(s): 4  
Subject: Elementary  
Teaching Experience: 12 years  

“Unwavering encouragement is important to students, especially those students who continually experience failure, because it empowers them to develop the self-confidence necessary to successfully confront challenges.”

**Royal W. Connell**
Annapolis High School

Grade(s): 9-12  
Subject: Naval Science  
Teaching Experience: 24 years  

“… to effectively learn, an individual must be given the opportunity, indeed, the freedom to fail… It is critical to be able to test ourselves and learn from our mistakes, our failures… I offer that freedom and safety (to fail and then succeed).”

**Darlene Coughlin**
Monsignor Slade Catholic School

Grade(s): 3  
Subject: Elementary  
Teaching Experience: 19 years  

“Schooling does not mean merely covering the curriculum; it is about helping the child discover their strengths and weaknesses and enabling them to improve themselves academically and otherwise.”

**Cheryl Ann Cox**
Marley Elementary School

Grade(s): K-5  
Subject: Math  
Teaching Experience: 15 years  

“… regardless of the environment (or demographic background), children thrive on learning in a warm, positive environment where they know they are cared for and respected. I can say with certainty that my students feel safe, motivated, and cared for in my classroom.”

**Ann Durkos**
Windsor Farm Elementary School

Grade(s): K-5  
Subject: Special Education  
Teaching Experience: 23 years  

“… it is my duty to instill in each student a knowledge of themselves, an awareness of their strengths and weaknesses, and to develop a fostering of personal growth and a trusting relationship that will allow risk taking.”
Anne Arundel County Teacher Nominees

Kristy Floyd
Marley Middle School
Grade(s): 7
Subject: Science
Teaching Experience: 12 years

“... it is a teacher’s responsibility to develop positive relationships with his/her students and become knowledgeable of their strengths and weaknesses, both academically and socially, in order for the students to become successful.”

Jennifer Foster
Tracey’s Elementary School
Grade(s): K-5
Subject: Guidance
Teaching Experience: 14 years

“... building relationships with students is essential to their success. In order for students to be willing to take academic risks, they must be able to trust you.”

Cathy Gallagher
Lindale Middle School
Grade(s): 6-8
Subject: Math/ESOL
Teaching Experience: 22 years

“... teaching is not only the imparting of knowledge, but more importantly, it is seeking the best in each of my students and challenging students to seek the best in themselves and others.”

Emily Christine Gordon
Northeast High School
Grade(s): 9-12
Subject: Social Studies
Teaching Experience: 5

“All students can achieve greatness. I challenge my students toward greatness by providing them with new and rigorous educational opportunities both in and out of the classroom.”

Alison Grava
Arundel High School
Grade(s): 9-12
Subject: English
Teaching Experience: 7 years

“It is when the student feels that their understanding or lack of understanding is respected and valued that the teacher can assist them to find their own voice that will be heard beyond the confines of the four walls of the class.”
Anne Arundel County Teacher Nominees

Joyce Harai
Central Special School
Grade(s): K-5
Subject: Special Education
Teaching Experience: 25 years

“It is my responsibility to provide appropriate learning experiences for all of my students… (and) recognize and understand the unique nature of each student, promote the worth and dignity of each student, and to strive for the educational success of every student.”

Susan Hartman
Arnold Elementary School
Grade(s): 3
Subject: Elementary
Teaching Experience: 7 years

“I know what it was like to be a poor reader in school. It was demoralizing and frustrating. So, it has become my goal to help children become lovers of the written word.”

Debra Mauller Hathorne
Shipley’s Choice Elementary School
Grade(s): 5
Subject: Math & Science
Teaching Experience: 32 years

“… every child can and should be expected to learn… we have a responsibility to find the path (that) students need to be successful. By setting a high expectation of learning, I sometimes find it necessary to convince the children that they can be successful.”

Michelle Hibbert
Quarterfield Elementary School
Grade(s): 4
Subject: Elementary
Teaching Experience: 9 years

“I encourage feedback (from my students)… I want my students to question classmates’ thoughts and provide constructive feedback in a non-threatening environment so that when they are faced with the same situations in their communities, they would use their words…”

Deborah L. Jester
Pasadena Elementary School
Grade(s): Kindergarten
Subject: Early Childhood Education
Teaching Experience: 37 years

“Young children are so easily motivated and there are so many ways to guide them into learning. It is important for teachers to keep abreast of the newest ways to share curriculum with children.”

honorees continued
Leigh Jones
Davidsonville Elementary School

Grade(s): Kindergarten
Subject: Early Childhood Education
Teaching Experience: 19 years

“My classroom and school are my home and the children are my family. I have created respectful and caring bonds with my classes and their families. This is vital as I share with parents the responsibility for teaching their children.”

Eric Thomas Kilby
Meade High School

Grade(s): 9-12
Subject: Music
Teaching Experience: 10 years

“Through music the core values of respect, responsibility, honesty, and concern for others are taught daily. Through music, better students are created, better citizens are created, better people are created.”

Mary Ann Lang
Solley Elementary School

Grade(s): K-5
Subject: ESOL
Teaching Experience: 24 years

“… education is a key and a lifeline that can transform lives. My goal is to enable my students to make connections with the outcomes by making the skills meaningful and relevant to them and ultimately transfer that knowledge or experience into other settings.”

Erin Leyden
Millersville Elementary School

Grade(s): 3
Subject: Special Education
Teaching Experience: 4 years

“I believe a great teacher never works alone. My teammates and I have fostered an environment that is inviting to all.”

Kathleen Locke
Crofton Meadows Elementary School

Grade(s): K-5
Subject: Reading
Teaching Experience: 26 years

“My students deserve the very best instruction I can give them, so I strive to make every minute count when I am teaching them. I believe that instruction must be meaningful and engaging for children.”
Anne Arundel County Teacher Nominees

Tracey Leah Malarkey
Southern High School
Grade(s): 9-12
Subject: Health Sciences
Teaching Experience: 6 years

“… curriculum is curriculum, but how a teacher interprets it makes a defining difference… I help students connect the dots between content and personal synthesis… Laughter … lightens the tension that often develops with sensitive topics and gives us time to connect the dots.”

Misty Matesic
Quarterfield Elementary School
Grade(s): Kindergarten
Subject: Early Childhood Education
Teaching Experience: 11 years

“My goal … is to inspire my students to become lifelong learners. Through the eyes of a lifelong learner, the world is viewed as endless opportunities to experience and grow.”

Sharon Mattoon
Germantown Elementary School
Grade(s): Kindergarten
Subject: Early Childhood Education
Teaching Experience: 11 years

“I am an essential role model for my students. My actions and reactions are assessed by my students. Therefore, I strive to be a positive, caring, consistent, compassionate, and fair teacher.”

Susan McDonald
Sunset Elementary School
Grade(s): PreK-5
Subject: Library Media
Teaching Experience: 17 years

“… I am deeply motivated to develop young researchers who can locate relevant information and seek to further their curiosity to become lifelong learners.”

Diane McGrath
Richard Henry Lee Elementary School
Grade(s): K-5
Subject: Art
Teaching Experience: 33 years

“In my classroom all of (a student’s) learning, regardless of talent, comes together and produces a very special final result, which then promotes self-esteem and success for the child.”

honorees continued
Mary Ellen Ouslander
Severna Park Middle School

Grade(s): 8
Subject: Social Studies
Teaching Experience: 27 years

“(As poet William Butler Yeats says,) ‘Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire.' Helping to keep that fire lit (among my students) is, indeed, one of the greatest gifts I have been given in my life.”

Julie Priebe
Mayo Elementary School

Grade(s): K-5
Subject: Library Media
Teaching Experience: 9 years

“…every student has unlimited potential and it is my vocation to help unlock that potential… I welcome new concepts, programs, and technologies that will advance student learning.”

Deborah Rowens
Lothian Elementary School

Grade(s): 3-5
Subject: Special Education
Teaching Experience: 33 years

“There are so many elements that need to be considered in order for teachers to enable their students to reach their maximum potential as students and as members of society… In order to address all of these elements, a teacher must establish a unique balance similar to the balance of nature.”

Michele Russo
Park and Brock Bridge elementary schools

Grade(s): 2-5
Subject: Talent Development
Teaching Experience: 6 years

“Each child has the ability to change the world. A teacher’s job is not to teach kids skills they will need for the present, but to prepare them for careers that don’t yet exist.”

Judith Nilsen Schmid
Jacobsville Elementary School

Grade(s): K-5
Subject: Physical Education
Teaching Experience: 26 years

“My philosophy of being an educator goes beyond the gym. I hope that … I am able to teach children to make wise choices as they embark on their path through childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and beyond.”
Deena C. Settineri
Rolling Knolls Elementary School

Grade(s): K-5
Subject: Music/Chorus
Teaching Experience: 15 years

“My ultimate goal is to give everyone the gift of music so that any child who has experienced performing to music, dancing to music, or creating music will always treasure that valuable gift.”

Jennifer Leigh Sturgell
Southern Middle School

Grade(s): 8
Subject: Math
Teaching Experience: 6 years

“Teaching is about shaping lives – particularly the lives of future leaders… In order to shape lives effectively, I believe that strong teaching needs three elements: relevance, rigor, and relationship.”

Aime Webber
Pershing Hill Elementary School

Grade(s): 4
Subject: Elementary
Teaching Experience: 7 years

“Success… is not only measured by a grade on an exam or completion of a homework assignment, but shines through in the eyes of my students who, despite their struggles with particular assignments, push ahead because they want to learn. They want to ‘get it’… I enjoy when my students ‘get it.’”

Jo Cannon Weber
Severn Elementary School

Grade(s): K-5
Subject: Special Education
Teaching Experience: 32 years

“My students’ abilities to laugh with me and sometimes at me, promotes a very accepting environment in my classroom. As a result of my positive classroom atmosphere, my students feel relaxed and self-confident, even when presented with tasks which challenge their capabilities.”
**Community United Methodist Church**

*Pastor Rick Gray*  
*Nominated by: Dr. Kathryn Kubic, Principal, Northeast High*

Pastor Rick Gray believes, “We are a community. It makes sense for the churches to be present in the schools. I tell all of the local pastors to get involved with the schools in their communities.” An invaluable asset to Northeast High School and its students, Pastor Gray and Community United Methodist Church are involved in collecting food for the community, serving as guest speakers and mentors, and providing crisis support. The church also organizes the 5th Quarter – an event held outside after each home football game to give 250 students a safe way to celebrate and have fun.

**East Coast Martial Arts**

*Master Tommy Lee, Owner*  
*Nominated by: Jean Marie Hofstetter, Principal, Davidsonville Elementary*

Since 2005, Tommy Lee has been involved with the students and teachers of Davidsonville Elementary in a variety of events. Each year he conducts a “Bully Guard” assembly, teaching children simple and effective ways to manage bullying. In addition, he participates in the school’s field day, gives a two-hour Halloween Safety talk, and offers women’s self-defense courses for Davidsonville teachers. Lee’s most recent contribution was the establishment of an after-school enrichment program and fundraiser where he provided a four-week after-school karate program for a nominal fee and raised $3,500 for the school.

**Full Gospel Emancipation Life Center**

*Pastors Barbara Brown and Barron Brown*  
*Nominated by: Ginnie Langford, Signature Program Facilitator, Old Mill High School*

As members of the Old Mill High School Business Advisory Board, Pastors Barbara and Barron Brown had already made a commitment to support the school any way that they could. Hoping to use their talents as motivators, the Browns took a particular interest in helping to make the connection with school and parents stronger. With strong participation in programs like the Parent Information Forum, the Career Information Fair, and Next Step, the Browns have empowered parents by providing them with information necessary for developing well-rounded citizens and encouraging them to be a visible presence inside and outside school to support academic and social success.
Gemini Financial Services

Dave Magayna, Owner/President

Nominated by: Sherri Billheimer, Signature Program Facilitator, Arundel High School

Dave Magayna goes out of his way to donate his valuable time and energy for the betterment of schools in West County. He serves on the Arundel High School Business Advisory Board, participates in the annual mock interview program, and collaborates with teachers to help students with résumé writing. Magayna has found creative, engaging ways to complement student school work with life skills education. With the help of the West County Chamber of Commerce, he recently established the Life Start Arundel Conference, where students from Arundel, Meade, and Old Mill high schools convened at Anne Arundel Community College for a day of workplace etiquette and job interview courses. Magayna has also worked on developing Arundel High School’s signature program and serves on the West Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce’s Education Committee.

Greenhouse Grill

Dave and Pam Keohane, owners

Nominated by: Ric Chesek, Principal, and Myra Glover-Bey, Social Worker, Marley Glen School

Over the last three years, Dave and Pam Keohane have brought heartfelt, tearful joy to needy families in Glen Burnie. During the holiday season, tears of relief ran down the faces of the parents of 30 children who received more than 150 gifts through the work of the Keohanes who led the charge in coordinating the effort. In all, more than 400 gifts have been donated to Marley Glen School for more than 90 children with severe physical and intellectual disabilities.

Impressive Promotional

Cheryl Hokanson, Owner

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

With a firm belief that successful people balance professional prosperity with civic service, Cheryl Hokanson tries to set an example for the students at South River High School. In addition to serving on the school’s business advisory board, she conducts mock workplace interviews, mentors interns, promotes teacher and student recognitions, and manages fundraising. She even developed a school-wide speaker program through which she has personally contributed many talks to students about marketing, fundraising, and the importance of infusing service into their lives and careers.
La Fontaine Bleue Catering

Thomas and Nancy Stuebler

Nominated by: Walter Jackson, Principal, Park Elementary School

For the past 15 years, La Fontaine Bleue has provided the students at Park Elementary School with a program designed to promote perfect attendance and support academic achievement. After each marking period, students who have made the honor roll or had perfect attendance are rewarded with a luncheon. During the luncheon, students are recognized for their commitment for achieving success by the school administration and La Fontaine Bleue. At the close of the school year, students who have made the honor roll or had perfect attendance for the entire school year are invited for a family luncheon provided by La Fontaine Bleue.

Reilly Benefits

Amy and David Reilly, Owners

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

Amy and David Reilly have been instrumental in developing and sustaining a number of valuable programs at Southern High School. By creating a portfolio development program, serving as mentors in the Professional Internship Program, participating in mock interviews, chaperoning field trips, and helping fund participation in the Rotary RYLA Leadership Conference, the Reillys are a great example of the stellar business and community partnerships that make Southern High School a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Last year, Southern High School was evaluated to attain academic accreditation, and the Reillys represented their peers for the business panel's interaction with the committee.
Businesses over 50 Employees:

Aerotek

*Thomas Thornton, CEO and President*

_Nominated by: JoAnn Best, Business Department Chair, Severna Park High School, and Jessica Heard, Business Advisory Board President_

Aerotek has partnered with Severna Park High School to develop a high-quality business administration program with paid business internship opportunities where students can apply what they have learned in the classroom to real-world situations in a corporate environment. Aerotek is a very young, dynamic corporation, strongly committed to an organization and environment where each of the students can achieve their highest potential. Aerotek’s efforts have been the catalyst for many successful changes that have led to the offering of more challenging honors-level business classes for students.

Anne Arundel Community College (AACC)

*Kathleen Beauman & Dr. Steve Ailstock*

_Nominated by: Kathi Heron, Signature Program Facilitator, Broadneck High School_

AACC’s Office of Business Education Partnerships and the Biology Department have spent countless hours supporting Broadneck High School and its programs. The Office of Business Education facilitates a monthly meeting where representatives from the county high schools and AACPS can meet and collaborate on educational ideas and opportunities. AACC has been an avid supporter of the proposed Environmental Literacy Signature Program at the school. Dr. Ailstock has embraced the signature program theme and has helped to create a vision for the program that is unmatched.

Anne Arundel Community College (AACC)

*Dr. Richard Cerkovnik, STEM Department Chair*

_Nominated by: Joyce L. Coleman, Signature Program Facilitator, North County High School, and Joanne Brack, STEM Department Chair_

AACC is a member of the North County High School Business Advisory Board and has been instrumental in planning and implementing the county’s first Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) magnet program in addition to assisting in the creation of the proposed International Trade, Transportation and Tourism Signature Program. AACC also provides instructors for project-based learning classes, a critical part of the STEM curriculum, and educational immersion experiences for students through the STEM Summer Bridge Program. The college also has partnered with schools to pursue grant funding which allows the STEM program to offer an even richer educational experience for the students.
Northrop Grumman Corporation

Joseph Striedl, Engineering Manager

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

Joseph Striedl has an unwavering dedication to the students of Meade High School. He has been a valuable asset to Meade over the last ten years, and it is only through the efforts of volunteers like him that Meade has been able to make such a leap in its academic achievements. Over the last decade, Striedl has been a key part of the community group that was responsible for starting the county’s first Project Lead the Way Program site. From the beginning, this highly-touted, national high school engineering program was a hit at the school. Through his leadership, hundreds of hours have been donated by the employees of Northrop Grumman. He is also a member of the new Homeland Security Signature Program Integrated Community Stakeholders Team, which is responsible for providing guest speakers, helping to develop new curriculum, facilitating field trips, securing internships, and planning community events.

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)

Nominated by: Michele Devine, Signature Program Facilitator, Chesapeake High School

SAIC has been a strong partner with Chesapeake High School for the last three years. The company has allowed its employees to volunteer countless hours to start and run a FIRST Robotics Team at the school, one of only two in the county. The engineers who assist the Robotics team work side-by-side with the students to inspire them and show them that science and math are fun. In addition to the employee volunteerism, the corporation has donated $5,000 each year toward funding the team. Through the hard work of the volunteers and the students, this year’s team won the Chesapeake Regional Robotics Competition and is headed to Atlanta to compete in the national championships. One of SAIC's employees, Jennifer Kyle, is now vice president of the school's business advisory board.

70th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group (IRSG), U.S. Air Force

SSgt Heather White

Nominated by: Joanna Bradshaw, PTA President, Pershing Hill Elementary School

What do you get when active-duty military members of the Air Combat Command Eighth Air Force log 1,500 hours of volunteering in one year? You get an MSA Club, field day, Family Reading Night, Engineering Club, and much more! These dedicated men and women donate their time to Pershing Hill Elementary School and have been doing so for the last eight years as part of a program called Partners in Education. Volunteers have selflessly given their mornings, afternoons, and sometimes their evenings to support the children and families of Pershing Hill. The impact of their service is felt not just in actual time logged but, “above all,” it can be seen in the soaring achievement of students and their self-esteem.
Judges for the 2010 Teacher of the Year

Richard Benfer, Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County
Lucinda Hudson, Principal, Office of School Performance
Donna McCallister, 2009 Public School Teacher of the Year
Deborah Ritchie, Member, 21st Century Education Foundation Inc., Immediate Past President, MD PTA
Diana Strohecker, Association of Educational Leaders
Christine Shea, 2009 Private School Teacher of the Year
Joseph Van Dueren, Owner, Balanced Life Skills
Garwai Vuong, Severna Park High School Student

Judges for the 2010 Business Partnership Awards

Elizabeth Callahan, Chesapeake Telephone Systems
Lise Foran, 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 2010 Judging Panel, Don Cramer and the AACPS Design and Print team, the AACPS Development Office, 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.
**Former AACPS Teachers of the Year**

1986-87 *(also Maryland Finalist)*  
Richard Wiles, Physical Education Teacher,  
Millersville ES

1987-88  
Penny Vahsen, Science Teacher,  
Magothy River MS

1988-89 *(also Maryland Teacher of the Year - 1990)*  
Patricia Neidhardt, Science Teacher,  
Broadneck HS

1989-90  
Art Smelkinson, Drama Teacher,  
Old Mill HS

1990-91 *(also Maryland Finalist)*  
Olin Yoder, Art Teacher,  
Meade HS

1991-92 *(also Maryland Finalist)*  
Virginia Crespo, Social Studies Teacher,  
Broadneck HS

1992-93 *(also Maryland Finalist)*  
Jane Daugherty, Music Teacher,  
Broadneck HS

1993-94 *(also Maryland Teacher of the Year - 1995)*  
Linda Adamson, Elementary Teacher,  
Mayo ES and Jessup ES

1994-95  
Thomas Cordts, Physical Education Teacher,  
Windsor Farm ES

1995-96  
Kandace Chase, Special Education Teacher,  
Ruth Eason School

1996-97 *(also Maryland Finalist)*  
Priscilla Ward, Pre-K Teacher,  
Germantown ES

1997-98  
Bruce Villwock, Physical Education Teacher,  
Broadneck HS

1998-99 *(also Maryland Finalist)*  
Diane Gerrior, Instrumental Music Teacher,  
Severn River MS

1999-00  
Denise Levitine, Art Teacher,  
Piney Orchard ES

2000-01  
Anthony Berard, Social Studies Teacher,  
Glen Burnie HS

2001-02  
Mattie Procaccini, English Teacher,  
Old Mill HS

2002-03  
André Jones, Social Studies Teacher,  
Severna Park MS

2003-04  
Michael Bell, Art Teacher,  
Southern HS

2004-05  
Walter “Skip” Lee,  
Physical Education Teacher,  
Chesapeake HS

2005-06 *(also Maryland Finalist)*  
Susan Casler, Language Arts Teacher,  
Crofton MS

2006-07 *(also Maryland Finalist)*  
Alicia Appel, English Teacher,  
Southern HS

2007-08  
Clayton Culp, Mathematics Teacher  
Broadneck HS

2008-09  
Donna McCallister, Language Arts Teacher  
George Fox MS