

H **FCPS** *Honors*

Recognizing the Greatest Achievements in Education

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Reception at 6 p.m. | Ceremony at 7 p.m.
George Mason University Center for the Arts





The Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools is thrilled to be a part of the 2016 FCPS Honors, a celebration of the incredible contributions by FCPS educators and those who support them.

WHO WE ARE

Preparing the Future Workforce and Citizens of Tomorrow

The Foundation for FCPS (Foundation) is the philanthropic arm of the school system and connects the strategic initiatives of FCPS to the community. The Foundation assists students and teachers in the areas of workforce readiness, classroom innovation and student success.

PROGRAMS WE SUPPORT

Workforce Development initiatives help students identify career paths and necessary training. In the 2016-17 school year, the Foundation is working with the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia to expand Cyber IT education into middle schools.

STEAM Middle School Programs provide STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art & Math) enhancements to the middle school curriculum through classroom speakers, Family Science Nights and field trips.

Kids In Need funds programs and services that help FCPS fill the gaps for our 53,000 neediest students with school supplies, backpacks and other necessities.

VA STAR is a state-wide program that enables students to refurbish used computers and donate them to families in need.


Please go to www.FCPSFoundation.org to find out more or to make a donation.

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FCPS Honors

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HONORS SPONSORS






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Karen K. Garza, Ph.D.
Dwight Yamada

SPECIAL THANKS TO:




Schedule of Events

RECEPTION 6 P.M.

Red carpet performers	Gypsy Jazz Combo <i>West Springfield High School</i> <i>Keith Owens, Director</i>
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AWARDS CEREMONY 7 P.M.

Orchestra	Fairfax Wind Symphony <i>FCPS Employees</i> <i>Stan Schoonover, Conductor</i>
Student Performance	Bailey's Upper Dance Company <i>Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences</i> <i>Becky Epstein, Director</i>
Welcome	Marty Smith <i>Chief of Staff</i>
Recognition of the Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools	Karen Garza <i>Superintendent of Schools</i>
Remarks on behalf of the Foundation	Jack White <i>Partner, Fluet, Huber and Hoang, LLC</i> <i>Chair, Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools</i>
Employee Award Introductions	Marty Smith
Employee Award Presentations	Karen Garza <i>and Fairfax County School Board Members</i>
Outstanding First-Year Teacher	<i>presented by Apple Federal Credit Union Education Foundation</i>
Outstanding Teacher	<i>presented by Apple Federal Credit Union</i>
Remarks	Corey Thornblad <i>Outstanding Teacher 2016</i>
Employee Award Presentations Continue	
Outstanding Hourly Employee	
Outstanding Support Employee	
Award Presentations Continue	
Outstanding Business Partner	
Outstanding Community Partner	
Student Performance	Sara Sturm <i>Vocalist, Westfield High School</i>
Employee Award Presentations Continue	
Outstanding Leader	<i>presented by Amazon Web Services</i>
Outstanding First-Year Principal	<i>presented by Milestone Communications</i>
Outstanding Principal	
Remarks	Justine Klena <i>Outstanding Principal 2016</i>

Outstanding First-Year Teacher

The Outstanding First-Year Teacher Award recognizes a Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) first-year teacher who demonstrates outstanding performance and superior instructional skills during the first year of teaching.

Administrators and mentor teachers/coaches may nominate first-year teachers who have demonstrated exceptional abilities and skills in their work with students, faculty, staff, parents, and the community during their initial year of teaching.

Finalists



Lauren Armentrout, Grade 2, Graham Road Elementary

When Lauren first began teaching her days consisted of: Eat. Sleep. Teach. Now, after her first year in, they follow a different pattern: Eat. Sleep. Teach. Reflect. Recharge. Grow. Make a difference. Repeat. "Her enthusiasm for knowledge and dedication to the children is contagious and the kids feed off her energy," said one parent. Lauren continuously analyzes her teaching, and works hard to balance her work and personal life because, as she says, she is a better teacher when she is dedicated to both.



Jacob (Jake) Fannon, Physical Education, Stratford Landing Elementary

Jake is driven by the belief that students do not care how much he knows until they know how much he cares. His first goal at Stratford Landing was to make physical education a student favorite again. Jake turned the gym into a warm and welcoming environment where students can try whatever they want without having to worry about how others perceive them. Jake says, "When students see me doing the 'whip and nae-nae' they laugh and realize that they can relax and have fun too."



Evan McGrew, Grade 4, Fairhill Elementary

Evan attributes the success and progress of his first year to the supportive culture of Fairhill and FCPS. "I am proud of the work I do as a teacher," he said. "I love my job and I love coming to school each day." Evan hopes his students love school too, and that they have benefitted from being in his class. He knows they love to read and is always on the look-out for books to add to his class library. "Good books and stories bring us together," he says.



Caroline Shewmaker, English, Thoreau Middle

As a first-year teacher, Caroline constantly wonders if her efforts are having a true impact on the lives of my students. "After all," she says, "They are why I am in this profession." She says the greatest lesson she has learned this year is that there is no shame in asking for help. Caroline has really come to value the feedback from her coworkers, and sees her nomination as a form of that feedback. It lets her know that her colleagues see her dedication and that she must be making a difference.



Screening Committee

Amanda Arman
Gifted Education Teacher
Fairhill Elementary School

Stephanie Dagley
Physical Education Teacher
Silverbrook Elementary School

Joshua Douds
Assistant Principal
Union Mill Elementary School
Region 4

Tonya Field
English Teacher
Woodson High School

Robin Highberg
ESOL Teacher
Herndon Middle School

Dawn Simpkins
Learning Disabilities Teacher
Whitman Middle School

Breanna Tucker
First Grade Teacher
Rolling Valley Elementary School

Previous Recipients

2015 Lee Daugherty
Mount Vernon High

2014 Christie Attanasio
Dogwood ES

2013 Kimberly Jones
Quander Road School

2012 Jamie Obendorfer
Twain MS

2011 Heather Monfasani
Crestwood ES

2010 Jennifer Fier
Key Center

2009 Tara Murphy
Mount Eagle ES

2008 Alexander Case
West Potomac HS

Christie Antetomaso, *Multiple Disabilities, Garfield Elementary*

Christie recalls the one teacher that made a difference in her life, and says her goal has always been to be that teacher to her students. Although her first year has been tough, she says the endless support from her mentor, principal, and school staff, really helped her through. Christie began to focus on what was possible, what was actually happening in each moment and what she could learn from these moments. She said, "I learned that the greatest lesson in teaching is perseverance."

Jessica Berns, *Multiple Disabilities, McLean High*

Jessica says some of the most important things she has learned as a first year teacher are; use the content to teach functional skills; know when to ask for help; find a balance between work and personal life; do not lose who you are as an educator and, especially, learn to enjoy the victories, no matter how slowly they might come. "It is so fulfilling to inspire kids to learn and help them to be successful," she says. The successes, no matter how small, are what it's all about.

Christina Botten, *Grade 5, Deer Park Elementary*

Christina's first-year didn't go exactly as planned. Originally hired to teach kindergarten, she ended up teaching in the grade five advanced academic program. But, Christina rose to the challenge. "Being a first-year teacher is challenging, but if you add in the additional training and curriculum requirements for Advanced Academics it is exceptionally challenging," said Principal, Carol Larsen. "Ms. Botten has not only met the challenge, but exceeded expectations as a first-year teacher." Christina said, although it was exhausting, she underestimated how incredibly rewarding teaching would be.

Ashley Ferraro, *Math, Edison High*

Ashley includes fun activities and movement as much as possible in her lessons. She says she wouldn't enjoy being sedentary for 90 minutes, so why would her students. Ashley engages them through group challenges and discovery-based games that require students to practice the content she wants them to understand. Ashley continually seeks new ways to relate to her students and encourage them to do their best because she believes that every child deserves the best education.

Lauren Joseph, *Grade 5, Hayfield Elementary*

Tick, tock, time is up! "Time seemed to be my worst enemy," said Lauren. So, she turned it into an ally by setting realistic goals and organizing her tasks for each day. This shift made it possible for Lauren to transform learning into an experience that engages students and inspires them to want to learn more. "When a first-year teacher can teach and show evidence of student learning on the FIRST day of the job, I know she is an outstanding first-year teacher," said Principal, Jessica Lewis.

WHEN
YOU SEE
A GREAT
TEACHER,
YOU ARE
SEEING A
WORK OF
ART.

- *Geoffrey Canada*

**Congratulations FCPS
Outstanding First Year Teacher!**



Rachel Kaplan, English, West Potomac High

Rachel's mother always told her she should be a teacher and, she was right, Rachel loves her job. "I feel grateful to have found my calling," she said. As a former reporter and speech writer, Rachel knows what potential employers will expect from her students, and says it's her responsibility to prepare them for the workplace. "I want my students to be people who know how to effectively articulate their ideas," said Rachel. "And that those ideas will more than likely be the ones that change the world."

Demilyn Odango, Grade 4, Coates Elementary

Demilyn says the first day of school for a first-year teacher is not unlike the first day for students; filled with nervous smiles and anxiety. Eventually, a sense of excitement replaces the anxiety and the school-year progresses with new challenges such as time management, making personal connections, and behavior management. One thing she has learned this year is to be flexible. She says embracing change and the varying personalities in her classroom will allow her to grow and become the best teacher she can be.

Kathryn (Kate) Pflager, Grade 5, Beech Tree Elementary

Kate says she has changed tremendously in her first year, but one thing has not wavered, her rapport and dedication to her students. "I am proud of the positive relationships I have created with each of them." Kate utilizes her students' strengths to help build their confidence and shows she believes in them. Recently, one of her students got to name his new born sister, and he named her after Kate, and it's moments like these that remind her that the true value of teaching goes far beyond content.

Hannah Powers, English for Speakers of Other Languages, Glasgow Middle

Hannah says the biggest challenge in an ESOL newcomer classroom is not the language barrier; it is balancing the developmental levels of the students. She also says that teaching such a diverse class has been a joy. The students bring a rich knowledge to the classroom, which she has learned is a valuable resource to instruction. Hannah's first year has been a rewarding experience, and she feels fortunate to see progress in the social, academic and extracurricular lives of her students.

Sabera Rahyab, English for Speakers of Other Languages, Herndon Middle

Sabera says teaching is a blessing that she is thankful for every day. She appreciates the individuality and culture each student brings to class, and marvels at their young lives. "They have experienced life in ways that I have only read in books or seen in movies," she says. "Yet they come to school each day with smiles on their faces like they have not a care in the world." They are more than children that come to class to learn English, they are her inspiration.

Krista Schepis, Resource Teacher, Beech Tree Elementary

Krista says teaching is a frame of mind rather than a job, and to be truly effective you have to be a lifelong learner. She knew she would face challenges in the first year, and decided the best thing she could do was set clear goals at the start and keep them in focus every day. Krista's goals include developing relationships with colleagues and students; infusing each lesson with engaging activities, and starting every day fresh; modeling perseverance and a positive perspective to all of her students.


Harmony Tahy, History & Social Studies, Whitman Middle

Harmony is no stranger to demanding, fast-paced careers filled with daily challenges. As a former restaurant manager she developed skills that have benefited her greatly in the classroom. But, she says, nothing prepared her for what it actually meant to teach: that first conversation with a parent, the time commitment, or the joy you experience when you watch students produce work with pride. Harmony possesses a genuine love of teaching and an innate desire to positively impact the lives of her students both in and out of the classroom.

Katherine (Kate) Washechek, History & Social Studies, West Springfield High

When Kate started her first year she openly admitted she was naïve. After five months in the field, many of her expectations have changed, and her teaching philosophy has since been shaped by the realities of education. Kate says one of the most important lessons she's learned is humility. "I'm certainly not afraid to laugh at myself, in the classroom or in general." Although Kate loves history, she understands not all of her students may feel the same way. But, she hopes they will leave her class with an intense interest in their own story, and the opportunity to serve a greater purpose.





“Apple is like family –
they’re the people
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financial questions.”

Lori Bedsole

Advanced Academic
Programs Specialist, FCPS

PROUD SUPPORTER
The Foundation for FCPS

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education community since 1956.

Congratulations to all award winners!

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Outstanding Teacher

The Outstanding Teacher Award recognizes an exemplary FCPS teacher who demonstrates dedication, commitment, and the ability to propel students to high levels of success. The recipient meets the individual needs of students, fosters talents, instills a desire to learn, and nurtures cooperative relationships among colleagues and in the community.

The winner is also a finalist for *The Washington Post* Teacher of the Year, a distinguished honor that recognizes excellence in teaching within public school systems and private schools in the Washington metropolitan area.

Parents, students, administrators, FCPS employees, Fairfax County government employees, and Fairfax County citizens may nominate teachers for this prestigious award.

Previous Recipients

- 2015 Kimberly Scott, Franklin MS
- 2014 Moosa Shah, Rachel Carson MS
- 2013 Melissa Porfirio, Crestwood ES
- 2012 Charles Sabatier, Mount Vernon HS
- 2011 Jamie Sawatzky, Rocky Run MS
- 2010 Brigitte Lavey, Langley HS
- 2009 Francis "Buck" Payne, Falls Church HS
- 2008 Michelle Ohanian, Mountain View Alternative HS
- 2007 Bob Eichorn, Cedar Lane School
- 2006 Lynn F. Riggs, Bailey's ES for the Arts & Sciences
- 2005 Stephen Scholla, Oakton HS
- 2004 Joseph Hills, Lake Braddock SS
- 2003 Inge Pisano, Oakton HS
- 2002 George Juliano, Robinson SS
- 2001 Edward D. Heffernan, Silverbrook ES
- 2000 Gail Ritchie, Kings Park ES
- 1999 Shirley Folsom, Mount Eagle ES
- 1998 Regla Armengol, Bailey's ES for the Arts & Sciences
- 1997 Philip Bigler, Thomas Jefferson HS for Science & Technology
- 1996 Gretchen Portwood, Woodson HS
- 1995 Kristi Thomas, Riverside ES
- 1994 Rebecca McDonnell-Sacra, McLean HS
- 1993 Emelie Parker, Bailey's ES
- 1992 Sharon Mullen, Woodley Hills ES
- 1991 Diane Elaine Breakiron, Stuart HS
- 1990 Vern Williams, Longfellow MS
- 1989 Lena Goreski, Lake Anne ES
- 1988 Teresa Zutter, Juvenile Detention Center
- 1987 Ronald Axelrod, West Springfield HS
- 1986 Raymond Wilkins, South Lakes HS
- 1985 Dorothy Lytal, Fort Hunt ES
- 1984 Jewell Alexander, West Springfield HS



Screening Committee

- Rebecca Baenig**
*Executive Principal
Region 5*
- Kelly Brady**
*Educational Specialist
HS Core Special Education
Special Services*
- Richard Culp**
*Educational Specialist
Staff Development & Training
Instructional Services*
- Mike Foland**
*Coordinator
Student Systems
Information Technology*
- Maria Perrone**
*Food Services Operations Specialist
Food Services*
- Melissa Porfirio**
*First Grade Teacher
Crestwood Elementary
2013 Teacher of the Year*
- Kimberly Scott**
*English Teacher
Franklin Middle School
2015 Teacher of the Year*
- Gordon Stokes**
*Principal
Carson Middle School
Region 1*



Corey Thornblad, *Social Studies, Kilmer Middle*

When Corey joined Kilmer as a social studies teacher she brought with her a wealth of experience gained on Capitol Hill. By bringing her in-depth understanding of the US Government and its history to the classroom, Corey serves as an example of classroom subject material applied in the real world and, by remaining active in politics today, exemplifies the importance of participating in the democratic process.

Corey's belief that students need to learn to think critically and write effectively inspired her to co-create (with Kilmer's head librarian) Bubble Up Classroom, an online community designed to address these concerns. One module included a thesis writing workshop that employed technology and hands-on learning activities. Through Corey's advocacy, Bubble Up was presented to the Virginia Council for the Social Studies Conference, the project was shared with social studies educators in Fairfax and across the country, and more than 1000 Kilmer students participated in the thesis workshop last year.

Finalists



Rachael Aldridge, *Spanish Language, Frost Middle*

Rachel is an exceptional teacher who instills a love of learning not only in Frost students, but in her colleagues as well. Her tireless devotion to language education takes her students beyond classroom walls and geographical boundaries and out into the world where language is lived. Her creative approach to teaching inspires confidence in her students and encourages them to aspire to become good global citizens. Rachel's influence has been so great that parents report they can't get their children to stop reading – even at the dinner table!



Angela Ammerman, *Orchestra Director, Annandale High*

Angela believes that all students have the ability to feel and make music. This passion and dedication to music education shows in the way she tirelessly recruits students from all backgrounds for her orchestra. Angela's commitment and empathy towards others was evident this past fall when she organized a benefit concert to help cover medical expenses for one of her students. She is a great asset to the education profession, and it is no surprise she was named the 2015 Virginia Orchestra Director of the Year by the American String Teachers Association.



Precious Crabtree, *Art, Deer Park Elementary*

Precious demonstrates a love of art that is only matched by her dedication to her students and their success. In her classroom, students learn to think of a mistake as a "Beautiful Oops." As a champion of interdisciplinary collaboration and community partnerships her students are connecting art to other classroom activities, and seeing how it relates to their daily lives. She is a tireless educator who strives to provide the best educational experience for every child.



Heather Hotchkiss, *Physics, Lee High*

Heather brings enthusiasm, inspiration and an unyielding love of physics to Lee and beyond. Her "can-do" attitude revitalized the Lee community's enthusiasm for science and has inspired many students to pursue science in college. A former student – now employed at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility - says he couldn't imagine where he would be today without her influence. The generosity she shows her colleagues and her love of teaching makes Heather the kind of teacher others aspire to be.



Steve Snyder, *Technology Education, Robinson Secondary*

After two decades as an educator Steve continues to inspire students with his excitement and passion. Stepping into his classroom is always an adventure as he makes technology come alive. Every day, he encourages his students to think big and to embrace their own ideas; freeing them to explore, experiment and problem-solve. His dedication to making a difference in the lives of the students at Robinson makes him a truly exceptional educator.

Leonda Archer, Math, Twain Middle

Leonda, a three-time recipient of the Mark Twain Teacher of the Year award, is a humble and dedicated educator who has had a tremendous impact on her school and community. Known as a great relationship builder, she is admired and appreciated by colleagues and students alike, and is often the “go-to adult” when Twain students need someone to talk to. For Leonda, it is equally important that students leave her class as better people as well as better math students.

Barbara Bailey, Grade 5, Flint Hill Elementary

Barbara is known for her charismatic teaching style and an ability to better those around her. She believes that teaching her students how to learn is just as important as teaching them what to learn. Barbara is more than an instructor, she is an intellectual coach, training and guiding students to seek the rewards that come from taking an active role in their own education. Students leave her classroom equipped with tools and skills to set them on the road to become successful learners for life.

Wolcott (Duke) Baird III, Math, West Springfield

Honor, Courage, and Commitment: values that Duke embodies as a Naval Academy graduate and former Marine Corps officer. As a math teacher, his purpose is to help students be better mathematicians and problem-solvers. Duke is also involved in the development of young people in the community, as well as a track and field coach. Whether it’s a mathlete, an athlete, or a colleague, he shares his values with everyone he meets and encourages them to maximize their potential and rise to new levels of confidence.

Cheryl Bamdad, Grade 2, Churchill Road Elementary

Whether it’s about multiplication tables or Monarch Butterflies teaching *can* be all fun and games. A creative and enthusiastic educator, Cheryl is one of those teachers students remember fondly and credit with making a difference in their lives. “Only a truly special teacher can impact a child’s entire outlook on life and learning,” says one parent. Cheryl is a dedicated instructor that consistently demonstrates an incredible commitment to her students, their families, her colleagues, and the school community.

Andrea Barrett, Gifted Education, Sangster Elementary

“Andrea exemplifies the type of educator the county should be proud to have for its students,” says one parent. She possesses a special talent for nurturing students and encouraging them to take chances and to not fear making mistakes. Andrea embraces her students’ unique personalities while helping them excel. She pursues excellence in all aspects of her profession, and has a remarkable ability to motivate those around her – both students and adults – to maximize their own potential.

Erwin (Lizette) Bennett, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Herndon Elementary

Lizette is a quiet force that has changed the way ESOL instruction is delivered at Herndon. Her motivation, dedication and support of students and colleagues, inspires other educators to be their very best. Once an ESOL student herself, Lizette is especially sensitive to the needs of her students and their families, and reaches out to them through initiatives such as Literacy Night which teaches families how to help their children at home, and the Herndon Elementary Book mobile.

Sara Boyce, Music, Hayfield Elementary

Sara is a highly trained and well respected music teacher. She is an active member in the Hayfield community, and opens her classroom to George Mason University student teachers. She promotes ‘the sound mind in a sound body’ idiom by sponsoring a daily exercise program for boys in Grades 3 to 6, and arranges after-school exercise classes for her colleagues. She is also known for her great sense of humor and her unique way of delivering afternoon announcements over the school’s PA system.

Brianne (Brie) Cersosimo, Grades 3, Haycock Elementary

Growing up in a family of football coaches, Brie learned from an early age about leadership and the importance of being part of a team. She is hardworking, quick-witted and resourceful. Her colleagues, students and their families can’t say enough about her dedication to Haycock and how much they appreciate that she is always available and ready to lend a hand. One colleague said, if you were stranded on an island, Brie is the person you would want with you.

Ryan Chapman, World History, Westfield High

Ryan’s students firmly believe Westfield would be better off if every student were in his class. Students both past and present admire Ryan for his dedication. He encourages their curiosity, love of research, and believes in their ability to produce clear, independent, cogent thinking. Ryan’s impact is not confined to the classroom; he is an integral part of the school community through his work with extracurricular and cross-curricular projects.

Cheryl Clark, Learning Disabilities, Laurel Ridge Elementary

Cheryl is a daily reminder of how compassion and heart drive motivation. She works with the best interest of students in mind to ensure their success. Cheryl helps math students become better problem solvers and fearful writers become more confident and independent. She is consistently cheerful and upbeat, and always willing to share her ideas. Cheryl fosters and maintains cooperative relationships with her colleagues, helping them adapt their lessons to reach at-risk students and students with disabilities.

Rebecca Corcoran, Grade 5, Rose Hill Elementary

Rebecca believes, while it’s important that students perform well academically, it is equally important for them to be responsible and respectful to others. She inspires students to develop these qualities by demonstrating compassion and team spirit through programs she has initiated, such as the 31-day Kindness Challenge, and coaching the Running with the Stars after school fitness practice. Rebecca is happiest when her students are kind to others and says, “I watch my students and they amaze me every day!”

Karen Couch, Grade 3, Bren Mar Park Elementary

Karen is always looking for ways to engage her students and encourage them to excel. She became one of 31 teachers from across the country selected to participate in the Classroom Champions program that partners classrooms with an Olympic athlete. Through video and live chat, students learn the hard work of training, goal setting, competition, and perseverance. Karen says the program taught her students that they can dream big, to recognize their full potential, and that obstacles are not insurmountable.

[WHAT MAKES FAIRFAX COUNTY THE IDEAL BUSINESS LOCATION]

A high-achieving education system and economic development are linked in every community. Companies, organizations and individuals thrive in Fairfax County because of its strong, stable and diverse workforce. And a highly skilled workforce starts with students that get unparalleled opportunities to learn.

To see how businesses benefit from being in Fairfax County, visit www.fairfaxcountyeda.org.

FAIRFAX COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

THE POWER OF IDEAS

Stephanie Crump, Grade 2, Canterbury Woods Elementary

Stephanie takes risks in her learning to help students make brand new connections in theirs. She uses kinesthetic arts integration strategies to engage students and encourage them to demonstrate their learning through art. Stephanie makes everyone who meets her feel special. As a Great Beginnings Coach, she mentors and supports new teachers and, as the head coach of Girls on the Run, she helps young girls build self-confidence and encourage their sense of civic responsibility.

Angela DeHart, Family & Consumer Science, Glasgow Middle

Angela's creativity and dedication to inspiring kids recently gained the admiration of internet pioneer and Google Vice President, Vint Cerf. She says Family and Consumer Science hones students' problem-solving skills, creativity and innovation, and practices this herself by collaborating with colleagues to create exciting learning opportunities such as exploring the science of food, or by partnering with NovaLabs where she is committed to introducing girls and underrepresented students to coding and STEM.

Susan Doak, Grade 4, Herndon Elementary

Whether it's in the classroom or on the sidelines, Susan works tirelessly to support her students' academic, social and personal needs. She believes every child needs to feel capable and worthy of success. "I make sure each and every student feels they are smart, talented, loved and special," adds Susan. She is generous with her time and can often be found having lunch with her students, or supporting new teachers to help them become their best.

Leah Dubray, Art Teacher, Lanier Middle

Leah is Fairfax City Rotary Club's 2015 Teacher of the Year. She inspires and impacts the Lanier community every day, regularly working with colleagues to bring art into other areas of the curriculum. Whether it's cyber-bullying or the world water crisis, Leah uses art to connect students to their communities and society at large. "I want to thank everyone who has gotten her where she is today because meeting her changed my life," says a former student.

Lauren Erbe, Grades 1, Rolling Valley Elementary

Lauren is everything one would want in a teacher for their child, said one parent. She works tirelessly with parents, communicating regularly with them about how they can partner with the school to support their child's success. Lauren is continuously learning to improve her teaching and leadership skills. She supports her team through thoughtful collaboration, and is a vital and active member of the Rolling Valley community.

Katherine (Kate) Evans, Learning Disabilities, South County High

It's easy to see why Kate was voted South County's Teacher of the year. When she realized students who needed remediation weren't staying after school for help because of transportation concerns she decided to bring tutoring to them and established the Lorton Library Tutoring Program. "Every student has a passion and it is my job as an educator to help them find it, ignite it, and live every day attempting to fulfill the hunger that will help make the world a better place," says Kate.

Bettina Forman, Reading Teacher, Terraset Elementary

"[To] fall in love with reading you need choice and access ...," says Bettina. She doesn't just teach students to read, she teaches them to love reading. To inspire their appetite for reading, she lends them books from her library, finds ways to provide them with free books, and encourages them to use technology such as audiobooks to discover different genres. Bettina is known for her generosity and is highly respected among her colleagues and the FCPS literacy community.

Tara Frazier, Advanced Academics, Grade 6, Keene Mill Elementary

Tara stimulates student autonomy through self-directed learning and constant access to advanced content. She understands her students' individual needs, encourages their talents, and fosters their self-esteem. Tara builds productive relationships with parents and colleagues, and mentors novice teachers as well as student teachers. "She can work with anyone ... really! I would bet if you gave her a crocodile and told her to tame it she would come out unscathed," said one student.

Erin Gilbert, Advanced Academics, Grade 6, White Oaks Elementary

"Great teachers like Erin make teaching an art," says one colleague. She is compassionate, insightful and generous with her time. She hosts 'lunch bunches' to help students who require extra instruction, and happily shares her extensive knowledge and resources of the 7th grade math curriculum. Erin fosters confidence and achievement in her students and colleagues, sees obstacles as opportunities, not problems, and is known to have turned a few "math-haters" into "math-lovers."

Lisa Goglio-Zarczynski, Grade 4, Forestville Elementary

Students are naturally drawn to Lisa because she is a genuine and enthusiastic teacher. In fact, her enthusiasm is known to extend beyond the classroom and even the state. Lisa once traveled to Michigan State University to support her students at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. She also demonstrates great leadership and the importance of giving back by encouraging the Forestville community to help support military families and the Honor Flight program.

Michelle Griffiths, Multiple Disabilities Teacher, Poplar Tree Elementary

Michelle uses research-based strategies to meet the diverse needs of her students. For example, she provides general population students with a variety of sensory activities to help them develop empathy and understanding for the challenges autistic students face. Michelle builds cooperative relationships with parents, colleagues and the PTA. She also oversees the expansion of Poplar Tree's Autism Awareness Program and organizes Autism Awareness Month programs.

Kerry Grochmal, Grade 2, Garfield Elementary

The first thing you notice upon entering Kerry's classroom is how her students work together, collaborating and being kind and helpful to each other. But it's no surprise; they're simply following her example. Kerry collaborates and is kind to her colleagues. She provides new staff with professional development that is informative and timely and helps facilitate meetings and consistency across teaching teams. Kerry is also responsible for helping to write Garfield's Professional Learning Community manual.

Crystal Gulino, *Advanced Academics, Grade 3, Mosby Woods Elementary*

Crystal possesses an incredible ability to assess the individual needs of her students and bring out their very best. She is a masterful mentor and exemplifies professionalism, organization and commitment to her grade three team as well as the entire school. She fosters cooperative relationships with her colleagues and the community and consistently shares her ideas. Crystal provides help to other teachers often inviting them into her classroom to demonstrate an innovative teaching skill or a new way of learning.

Dana Hubbard, *Biology, West Potomac High*

Dana is an educator, coach, mentor, friend and leader. She is dedicated to student success and inspires them in all areas of their lives. Dana is also known in the community as an outstanding and compassionate coach. She has built a remarkable and cohesive field hockey program at West Potomac where every player is made to feel valued. Students rely on her for advice and many of her former players consider her a life-long friend and confidant.

Carolyn Hudson, *Health & Physical Education, Longfellow Middle*

Carolyn helped start the Good Buddy volunteer program - pairing students with special education children - because she believes in the power of positive sport experiences. She also believes in the importance of overall health for all. She has sponsored events that involved the entire Longfellow community, such as a fundraiser basketball tournament for the American Heart Association, or participation in the Golden Wellness Award. "Carolyn's passion for the profession is never more prevalent than when she is mentoring students or colleagues," says a fellow teacher.

Kathleen Jacoby, *Band Director, Herndon High*

Kathleen's impact on her students is evidenced by the fact that more than 80 percent of them pursue music in some form after they leave high school. She is there for her students in times of sadness and tragedy, offering sympathy or a kind word when they need it most. Under her direction, the Pride of Herndon Band enjoys a world-class reputation and has performed in places such as D.C.'s Cherry Blossom Parade and Main Street in Disney World.

Sharon Jeanes, *Band Director, Irving Middle*

Sharon inspires respect, honesty and self-confidence, and many - well above the national average - of her eighth graders continue to study music in high school. Students appreciate her dedication and energy, her efforts to make the band room a safe and welcoming environment. When Sharon isn't working to give the best musical experience possible, she can often be found supporting her students at school events. After hearing Sharon's students perform, one colleague said, "Everything she touched sounded like gold."

Christy Jenkins, *Math, Westfield High*

Quirky and fun is how one student describes Christy. She redefined the math experience, noted another. Christy has turned her classroom into a math social hub where she demonstrates real-life applications of mathematical concepts and encourages students to work together to problem-solve. She uses creative techniques to explain how concepts and formulas are arrived at and what they do; making it easier for students to master difficult ideas needed for higher level math.

Colleen Kelly, *Grade 1, Herndon Elementary*

Colleen credits her father Jim for instilling her love of lifelong learning. She works tirelessly to foster good relationships between the school and community, including making home visits to families of the more needy students. Colleen volunteers at after-school community events, such as Family Literacy Night and Math and Science Night and can also be found at PTA meetings and helping out with PTA functions such as BINGO, the Book Fair and spirit nights.

Kathryn (Kate) Kirkland, *Grade 3, Hollin Meadows Elementary*

From the start, Kate decided to dedicate her teaching career to children with special needs within the general education classroom. She is a patient, gifted educator with an innate ability to instill in her students a lasting love of learning. Students, especially those who have struggled, leave her class feeling more confident, and appreciative of her support. "When I'm trying to figure something out, she gives me time to figure it out for myself. She waits," said one student.

James Koontz, *Grades 4, West Springfield Elementary*

James is an unassuming, committed teacher, "he gets students and he gets teaching," says one PTA member. He is equally committed to the West Springfield community. James is the teacher representative on the PTA. He regularly attends school events with his family, and is the sole sponsor of the after school robotics club. James is also the Positive Behavior Intervention and Support team leader, researching and utilizing data to create change and implement new initiatives at the school.

Colleen Kuhn, *English, Quander Road*

Colleen has a unique ability to reach her students through differentiated lessons and activities that address an individual's abilities and needs. She is a sought after mentor and admired by colleagues for her hard work and passion for teaching. Colleen often collaborates with social studies and art colleagues to inspire student learning, and reaches out to families to communicate student progress, and to share the tools necessary to navigate the special education world.

Linda Lauderdale, *History and Social Studies, Stuart High*

Linda has a tremendous impact on her students and the Stuart community. Her connection to the community has resulted in a number of guest speakers appearing in her classroom. For example, a BB&T expert spoke to the economic and personal finance students about banking. She sponsors the school's recycling club, Ingenium and the National Honor Society (NHS), where students participate in community service initiatives such as collecting books for distribution at Spring Fest.

Yoko Linam, *Japanese Immersion, Fox Mill Elementary*

It is Japanese custom to address teachers by their last names followed by Sensei: *Sensei* means *teacher* in Japanese. Linam Sensei - teaches math and science in the Japanese Immersion program. Her students say she inspires them to be their very best and to participate in community service. They really appreciate the time Linam Sensei takes to explain difficult topics, "She helped me love math when before it was at the bottom of my list of favorite subjects," said one.

William (David) Martinez, Physical Education, Centre Ridge Elementary

David is known throughout the Centre Ridge community for stepping up. He acts as a translator and ambassador to families new to the school and the area, and also helped open the school's Family Center. David started Young Men in Motion, an after school club that teaches grade five and six boys fitness, leadership and teamwork skills. He also implemented schoolwide nutrition and fitness goals that lead to a Golden Wellness award for Centre Ridge.

Katherine McClafferty, Grade 5, Graham Road Elementary

Katherine has a transformative effect on her students, colleagues and the Graham Road community. A colleague said she is the most inspiring, creative, and dedicated teacher he has worked with. Students think she is "PERFECT," adding she makes her expectations clear to students, treats everyone fairly, never raises her voice, and handles stressful situations calmly, even giving herself a few minutes in the 'Reflect and Return spot' when needed.

Margaret McGuire, Gifted Education, Waynewood Elementary

Margaret lives and models a respect for others and a love of learning that is an inspiration for all who know her. She pioneered Waynewood's full-time Advanced Academics program and now all students are exposed to creative and critical thinking strategies every day in a number of content areas. Margaret was also instrumental in mapping out a professional development plan for all staff members to receive the training required to teach Advanced Academics. Currently, 25 staff members hold an endorsement in Advanced Academics.

Kelly McKeon, Multiple Disabilities, Gunston Elementary

Kelly's love for teaching is apparent in her interactions with students, parents, and colleagues. She has a gift for working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, and motivates students by engaging them in creative lessons to help them acquire the skills to perform at grade level with their general education peers. Kelly develops goals that support every student's academic and social well-being and collaborates with parents and other team members to ensure their success.

Dana Ouart, Spanish, Lake Braddock Secondary School

Dana is a dedicated and knowledgeable teacher who cares about the integrity of her curriculum and the well-being of her students. She motivates students through lessons that are relevant and interactive. Dana promotes civic responsibility among her students by having them tutor classmates or work with the Spanish-speaking population in the community. As the World Languages chair, she has fostered strong, productive, and caring relationships with each of the teachers and serves as a mentor and role model for all.

Amol Patel, Biology, South Lakes High

Amol "is rushing enthusiastically into the 21st century and pulling us along with him," said one colleague. He is extremely creative, highly motivated and passionate about learning and research. His students say he goes out of his way to make sure they understand the material, "for that I'm so grateful to have had him," says one student. Amol is "a wizard among teachers," and loves to share what he has learned with colleagues and students alike.

Alexis Rivera, Grade 1, Fairfax Villa Elementary

Alexis is an inspiring teacher who makes a difference in the lives of students, staff, and families. She values the home-school partnership and enjoys engaging with her families and learning about them. One way she accomplishes this is by making home visits to each family during the course of the year. As a result, families feel connected to her and the school, enabling her to maintain healthy and positive relationships with her students and families for years to come.

Benjamin (Ben) Rudolph, Advanced Academics, Grade 6, Keene Mill Elementary

Ben will go to great lengths to engage his students, including standing on the rooftop. For a recent project he had his students create a safe 'Lunar Landing' module for an egg. To test the modules, he climbed onto the roof and dropped the projects one-by-one as students and teachers counted down and waited to see whose egg landed safely. One colleague said, "Ben has a natural talent for finding fun and creative ways to connect students with content."

Sara Scott, Grade 2, Cherry Run Elementary

Sara inspires her students to be the best that they can be, affording each child their own opportunity to succeed. She reaches all types of students, from the reluctant learner to the enthusiastic learner, and amazes her colleagues with her ability to make lessons come alive. Sara has a stellar reputation among students and parents, and is an inspiration to colleagues. The community relies on her opinions and knows that she always has their best interests at heart.

Jeanne (Jen) Shaddrix, Grade 2, Orange Hunt Elementary

Jen is a champion for all students, a mentor to many and a learner to the core. Her dedication and commitment to teaching is unmatched, and the Orange Hunt community is a better and kinder place for knowing her. Parents report tremendous growth in their children due to Jen's patience and compassion. Her influence on the lives of her students lasts for years to come; already inspiring one former student to become a teacher at FCPS.

Nicole Showalter, Grade 3, Deer Park Elementary

Nicole is constantly connecting: connecting the learning to students' lives; the goals of the district and school to the work of her Collaborative Learning Team, and school life to students' families and home lives. She considers new ways to reach more kids and inspires colleagues to be their best for Deer Park's students. Drop by her class and you will leave with something to think about and a feeling you have participated in something truly masterful.

Mary (Laura) Spage, Grade 5, Laurel Elementary

Laura is "like a living superhero," she has the heart and skill to appreciate each child and apply individual attention where needed, says one parent. Laura solidified her superhero status this year by becoming a homebound teacher to a student with cancer. She also arranged to have her class visit their classmate at home, providing students with an opportunity to better understand and talk openly about their friend's disease, while showing the afflicted child much needed love and support.

Katelyn Spengler, Grade 5, Parklawn Elementary

Katelyn says the teachers she admires most are the ones who have a profound understanding of their students. Her colleagues would say this describes Katelyn to a tee. She puts a lot of time and energy into developing project-based learning activities, and it shows in the way her students communicate and collaborate with each other. "The academic language, etiquette and conversation [among the students] truly demonstrate how exceptional Katelyn is as an educator," said one colleague.

Amy Steen, Librarian, Laurel Ridge Elementary

Amy is a dedicated professional who touches the lives of every student. She is unfailingly generous, "One of the marks of a great teacher is collegial support and generosity, and Amy would do anything to help a fellow teacher," said one colleague. Amy is a gifted and animated storyteller, adapting to the needs of the students and taking time to ensure all students leave the library with a smile, a book, and feeling invigorated about reading.

Mindy Stewart, Grade 2, Keene Mill Elementary

Mindy enriches the curriculum with opportunities to engage in critical and creative thinking by integrating language arts with social studies and science. Her students work on problem-based science research with their 6th grade buddies and together produced a video showcasing their project. Mindy demonstrates a thorough knowledge of the subject matter and shares it effectively with her students. She is equally generous with her colleagues, mentoring first-year teachers, presenting at workshops and participating in summer curriculum development.

Joan Swanson, Grade 5, Pine Spring Elementary

Joan thinks that fifth grade is the optimal time to hook kids into science and math. She uses every opportunity to draw them in, including securing grants to fund educational field trips, science materials, math remediation programs, and technology for her classroom. Joan's classroom is a safe and inclusive place where everyone is part of her academic family. Students are in an environment that nurtures academic curiosity and instills a sense of confidence that they will succeed.

Bihel Tafesse, Math, Mount Vernon High

When Bihel joined the Mount Vernon math department, she immediately began to make an impact. She took on the role of Geometry Collaborative Learning Team Leader, and shared her creative ideas and innovative approaches which resulted in improved student achievement on the Standards of Learning exam. Her impact is also felt in the community where she serves as the president of the Alliance of Ethiopian and Eritrean Parents Focused on Education in America.

Aaron Tenenbaum, Learning Disabilities, Springfield Estates Elementary

Aaron, or "Mr. T" as he is affectionately known, is an awe-inspiring teacher. For him, student success is a collaborative effort. He meets with parents throughout the school year to discuss their child's strengths, areas of need, and progress. He also shares instructional strategies with them to use at home to supplement school day instruction. Aaron's students are eager to improve, and he gives of his personal time by tutoring before and after school, on weekends, and during extended breaks.

Dan Tra, Mathematics, Woodson

Dan is a true champion of computer science who works diligently to reduce the gender gap in STEM. He invites guest speakers from the technology sector to speak to his students, and has created programs such as Girls in Technology, and Robotics clubs. Dan thrives on student creativity and instills them with confidence to solve their own problems. He shares his enthusiasm with parents and encourages colleagues to employ technology in their lessons. "Dan Tra delivers beyond that of any colleague that I have known," said a fellow teacher.

Julia Ventimiglia, English, Langley High

Julia says one of the most meaningful moments of her career was teaching *A Long Way Gone*, Ishmael Beah's memoir about being a child soldier. Witnessing the impact Beah's book had on students prompted Julia to persuade the author to visit Langley. She said that giving Langley students the opportunity to hear firsthand a powerful story of redemption was not just a lesson for a day, but a memorable event that will continue to inspire in the years to come.

Christopher (Chris) Weise, Band Director, McLean High

Chris treats his students with respect and supports them in every aspect of their lives. When they experienced the sudden death of a peer, they turned to him instead of hiding their grief. One student said, "Two characteristics make a powerful leader: willingness to listen and the ability to ignite eagerness within one's followers," and Chris exemplifies both. At rehearsals, Chris encourages his students to take risks. He once told a student, "If you make a mistake, make it like that: nice and confident."

Randy Wolfinger, History & Social Studies, Fairfax High

Randy brings the same energy and commitment to teaching today as he did when he first began 42 years ago. There have been many changes over his career and none was more welcomed than the invention of email. Maintaining contact with the students' families has always been Randy's priority and email affords him that ability. He exemplifies the qualities of the very best teachers, says parents, and is a masterful mentor and an invaluable resource for both new and seasoned teachers alike.



Outstanding Hourly Employee

The Outstanding Hourly Employee award celebrates non-contracted employees who demonstrate commitment and leadership in their work and foster cooperative relationships with colleagues and the community. To be eligible for nomination, employees must have completed at least three consecutive years of hourly employment at the same FCPS worksite and meet a minimum number of work hours per year. Any contracted FCPS employee may submit a nomination.

Finalists



Stacey Evers, *Environmental Educator,*
Belvedere Elementary

Broken bird eggs. Snake skin. A dried out honeycomb. Seeds. Fish food. Maybe even a bone. Those are just some of the things you'll see on Stacey's desk. But, you'll rarely find her there — Stacey is usually on school grounds, working with excited students, helping to replenish the trout population in Virginia or maintaining blue bird boxes as part of the National Blue Bird society's initiative to increase their population. As one parent said, "She is not an employee. She is a believer."



Gisele Gray, *Parent Liaison & Interpreter,*
Mount Vernon High

Gisele exemplifies dedication and compassion. She once told a scared and despondent student, "Si se puede," it means, "Yes you can." That former student, who thought of dropping out of high school at the time, is a registered nurse now. Gisele helps students and their families with everything from graduation assistance to immigration resources. She has also made it a priority to inform all Mount Vernon community members about human trafficking and its impact on the Hispanic community.



Screening Committee

Michele Arnold
Human Resources Analyst
Human Resources

Sarah Brooker
Assistant Principal
Orange Hunt Elementary School
Region 4

Elizabeth Donaldson
Manager
Multilingual Services
Special Services

John Dooley
Coordinator
Network and System Services
Information Technology

Janet Goolsby
Manager
Transportation Operations
Facilities and Transportation

Carol Larsen
Principal
Deer Park Elementary School
Region 5

Tracey Skahen
Executive Administrative Assistant
Chief Academic Office

Previous Recipient

2015 Ruth Azimi
Robinson Secondary

Mary Louise (Lou) Aimone, Office Assistant, Social Studies, Instructional Services

Whenever or wherever an extra pair of hands might be needed, you'll find Lou. She exceeded expectations to ensure that the magnet school program application and lottery process was efficient and highly successful and that the more than 750 families received courteous and exceptional customer service. Lou's colleagues appreciate her kindness and generosity and say her positive attitude goes a long way for all those she encountered.

Adalinda (Addy) Gonzalez, Parent Liaison/Multilingual Interpreter, Herndon Elementary

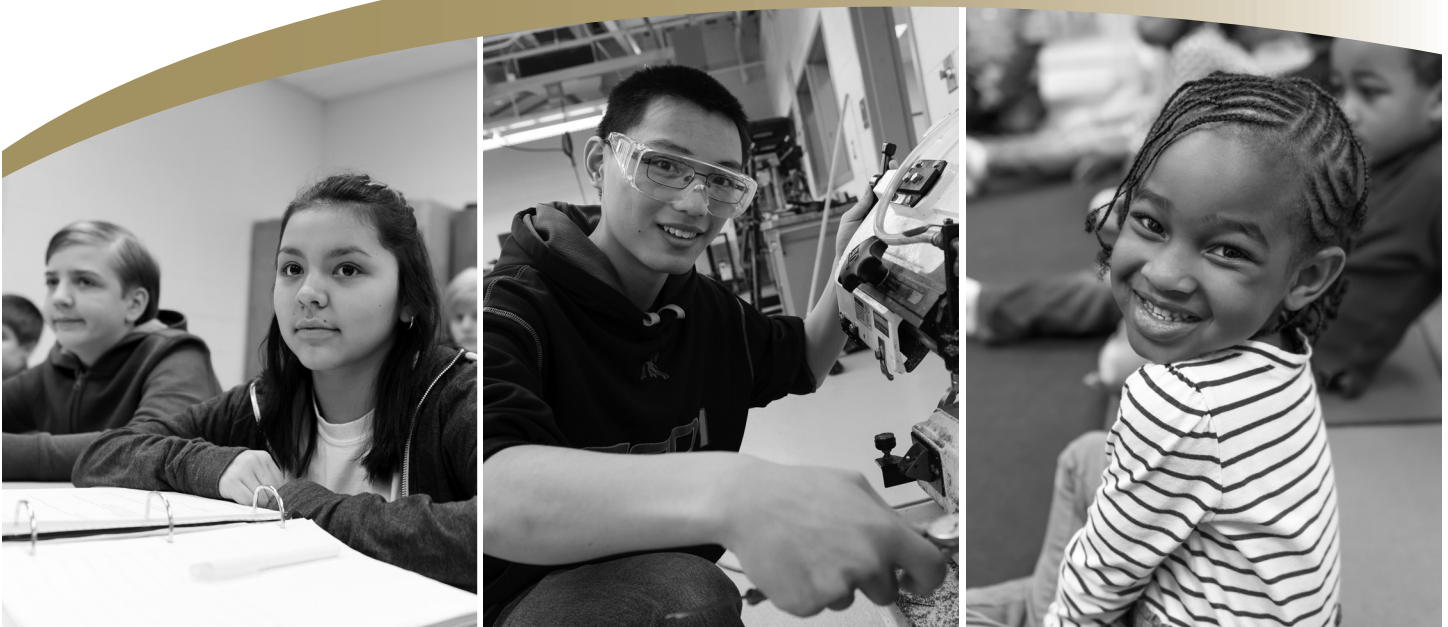
Already fluent in English and Spanish, Addy recently began taking Arabic lessons so that she can converse with Herndon's Middle Eastern families. "It is this type of dedication that makes Addy such a valuable part of the Herndon Community," said one colleague. Her commitment is also evident in initiatives such as organizing parent resource nights, arranging for an immigration lawyer to speak to families about citizenship, and encouraging families to participate in the Early Literacy Program.

Thomas Montgomery, Lead Media Technician, Logistics Services, Sprague Technology Center

Tom's technology and event knowledge is only outweighed by his work ethic and professionalism. His team members say they appreciate his know-how and dependability. Clients are reassured knowing Tom is assigned to their event. "Once again Tom has been awesome. I cannot tell you how much his being here has made this event a non-stress occasion. Thank you!" said one. On more than one occasion he literally saved the show with his suggestions and assistance in resolving computer issues.

Margaret (Meg) Turkson, Parent Liaison, Riverside Elementary

Meg maintains her composure in challenging situations, and is sensitive to the issues within the Riverside school parent community. She speaks Twi, which helps the school connect with African families and communicate their needs to teachers and staff. Meg demonstrates commitment and leadership in many ways, from sorting and delivering donations to families in need, to leading workshops for parents to help them understand the FCPS website and how to navigate Blackboard.



Outstanding Support Employee

The Outstanding Support Employee Award recognizes outstanding support employees who have made unique and exceptional contributions to FCPS. Recipients of this award demonstrate commitment and leadership in their field of work and foster cooperative relationships with colleagues and in the community.

Winners fall in two categories for this award, school-based and non-school based.

Parents, students, administrators, FCPS employees, Fairfax County government employees, and Fairfax County citizens may nominate support employees for this prestigious award.

Previous Recipients

- 2015** Chun-Yen (Jerry) Lin, Intervention Support Services Instructional Assistant, Marshall High
Brady Rauch, Capital Projects Coordinator, Facilities & Transportation Services
- 2014** Willie Hillary, Assistant Building Supervisor, Quander Road School
Kenny Carter, Warehouse Supervisor, Processing Center, Instructional Services
- 2013** Julio Dejo, After-School Program Specialist, Lanier MS
Steve Kerr, School Investigation Specialist, Human Resources
- 2012** Elizabeth Payne, Health, Family Life & Physical Education Coordinator, Instructional Services
Tina West, Administrative Assistant, Hayfield SS
- 2011** Shirley Miller, Building Supervisor, Cooper MS
Cheryl Temple, Manager, Assistive Technology Services, Special Services
- 2010** John Adams, Building Supervisor, Stratford Landing ES
Delores Herndon, Professional Development Specialist, Professional Learning & Accountability
- 2009** Janet Cameron, Public Health Training Assistant, Kilmer Center
Sher Tariq Nasir, Database Engineer, Information Technology
- 2008** Nancy Bowen, Administrative Assistant, Burke School
Tom Reinsel, Coordinator, Facilities & Transportation Services
- 2007** Preston Everett, Building Supervisor, Mount Vernon Woods ES
Robert Maffett, Technology Support Specialist, Information Technology
- 2006** Nancy Gunderman, Bus Driver, Area III Transportation
Scott Springston, Multimedia Production Technician, Information Technology
- 2005** Michell Colwell, Student Information Analyst
Clara Johnson, Building Supervisor, Hunters Woods ES
- 2004** Joseph Nguyen, Facilities & Transportation Services
Bill Young, Herndon HS
- 2003** Gina Burke, Human Resources
Cyndi Clyburn, Little Run ES
- 2002** Judy Davidson, Forest Edge ES
Irvin Green, South Lakes HS
Michael Horgan, Information Technology
- 2001** Robert Armah-Sawyer, Woodley Hills ES
Toni Tate, Human Resources



Screening Committee

Maricela Alarico

*Coordinator
Payroll and Benefits Accounting
Financial Services*

Amena Aldacushion

*Employment Specialist
Human Resources*

Adam Cahuantzi

*Educational Specialist
Pyramid Procedural Support
Special Services*

Joan Carboni

*Finance Technician
South Lakes High School
SSEAC Representative*

Terri Edmunds-Heard

*Principal
Franconia Elementary School
Region 3*

Randy Franck

*Facilities Management Liaison
Facilities and Transportation*

Sandy Kretzer

*Coordinator
Technology Architecture and Assessment
Information Technology*

Pamela Clayborne-Morgan

*Principal
Fairhill Elementary School
Region 2*

Karin Williams

*Director
Operations and Strategic Planning
Instructional Services*



Carolyn Buschman, *Administrative Assistant, Robinson Secondary*

Have a question? Ask Carol. She is unwavering in the support and guidance she offers students, parents, teachers and staff at Robinson. Carol's dedication goes beyond logistical expertise; she also understands behavior management and is ready to support teachers and their students with a calm, safe plan to help those struggling to regain composure and reduce classroom distractions. There is no person who better exemplifies the Robinson spirit and dedication than Carol," said one colleague.



Juan (Cesar) Carrasco, *Assistant Building Supervisor, Willow Springs Elementary*

Every morning Cesar greets the children with a "hello," an "hola," a high-five or a hug. For many people he is the face of Willow Springs. Cesar is always ready to assist staff, parents and volunteers - especially during community events. When the school hosted a blood drive to benefit a former student battling leukemia, Cesar helped the Bloodmobile staff setup and was the first to donate. His colleagues say they are privileged to work with someone as humble and dedicated as Cesar.



Patricia (Patti) Ficken, *Special Education Instructional Assistant, Fort Belvoir Elementary*

One of Patti's proudest moments was when she worked with a student who had barely uttered a word in more than three years. One day, on Patti's direction to 'read,' the student spoke, and continued to do so with the positive reinforcement and partnership Patti had built with the student's parents. A colleague said, whenever she reminisces about the student's smile that day, you can really see the pride on Patti's face.



Emily Godfrey, *Librarian, Twain Middle*

It is impossible to be around Emily and not be in a good mood. She exudes positive thinking and is an inspiration to others. Emily is dedicated to the support and success of staff and students at Twain. As a member of the 2014-15 FCPS Library Information Services Vanguard team she produced professional development materials for all librarians, and approaches all literacy activities and events through the lens of Twain students. "Emily is clearly in the top one percent of all educators with whom I have been honored to work," said one colleague.



Patricia (Ann) Shepherd, *Administrative Assistant, Herndon High*

"Ann is a gift to Herndon High School," said one colleague. She has been instrumental for the increase in student visits and book checkouts at the library, has co-written several successful grant applications, and is always on the lookout for more opportunities to serve students and staff. When teachers experienced difficulties with an interactive eBook platform, Ann developed training materials and offered one-on-one training to teachers. Because she does her job so well, the librarians have more time to focus on instruction.

Ayman Abourakty, Technology Support Specialist, McNair Elementary

Ayman is known to all at McNair Elementary as a 'Jack of All Trades.' "Whether you need technology help, an Arabic translator, motivational speaker, or a person to bounce ideas off of, he is your person," said one colleague. Relationship building is one of Ayman's biggest strengths. Teachers and staff feel welcome to stop by with any of their technology concerns. Ayman is humble and generous; the driving force behind an idea without needing to be the face of it.

Rubenia Alvarez, Building Supervisor, Longfellow Middle

Rubenia is the kind of building supervisor who leads by example. She works side-by-side with custodial staff shoveling snow, cleaning lockers, helping the PTA maintain their rain and butterfly gardens, assisting families during Open House with locker repairs or finding classes, and taking the lead to maintain the Green Flag Award for the school's landscaping. Whatever it takes, Rubenia is there to see it gets done, forging strong relationships and inspiring others with her dedication and generosity along the way.

Maria Ampuero, Instructional Assistant, Bush Hill Elementary

"Maria has a heart of gold," said one colleague. "Our building would not be the same without her." Maria motivates students who struggle with school by taking a personal interest in their stories and developing goals designed to help them succeed in the classroom. She is an integral part of the school's crisis response team, and is often a first responder. Maria helps establish order without compromising composure and leadership so that students and staff may regain their routines.

Gloria Anchundia, Office Assistant, Glasgow Middle

Gloria is a leader in her role and ensures everything runs smoothly in the office at Glasgow. From teachers taking accurate attendance to helping parents in need of assistance while navigating the school website and creating email accounts so they can access their children's academic record, attendance and personal emails from teachers, Gloria is the first point of contact for all visitors to the school, and welcomes everyone with respect and a smile.

Mary Brady, Instructional Assistant, Stuart High

Mary is tenacious when it comes to student success. She is committed to providing the best educational outcome for students and goes beyond the usual Monday to Friday work week to get it. Mary supports students before and after school, and has devoted several weekends to helping them prepare and pass SOL tests. One of Mary's success stories happened last June when she helped a student who had failed previous SOLs pass them and graduate with their class.

Sharon (Sheri) Brown, Student Information Assistant, Union Mill Elementary

Sheri is the 'Director of First Impressions'. She happily gives tours of Union Mill to incoming families and takes the time to make new students and parents feel welcomed. She also brushed up on her Spanish language skills to better communicate with them. Sheri responds to staff needs and communicates information and deadlines in a positive and timely manner. She knows when children need a little extra attention, and is always there to help any children in need.

Timothy (Tim) Brown, School-Based Technology Specialist, Bull Run Elementary

Communication, collaboration, and strong relationships are three of Tim's core values. He inspires fifth graders to use technology to enhance their learning in meaningful and personally satisfying ways. Tim often participates in planning meetings with teaching teams to see if there is a way technology can help with the curriculum and showcase learning. For example, he worked with teachers to develop a project to help student innovators engineer and construct their own self-propelled cardboard cars.

Nancy Cassidy, Office Assistant, Herndon Elementary

Nancy's title barely describes all she does for Herndon and the local community. Her organizational skills and attention to detail ensure the school's annual Thanksgiving Luncheon is festive and successfully serves 2500 meals within the regular lunch schedule. Nancy volunteers for many local events, everything from the Herndon Homecoming Parade to the Herndon Festival and is a past recipient of the Herndon Optimist Club Partners in Education Award.

Emily Cheng, Student Services Assistant, Frost Middle

Emily is a combination of unsung hero and orchid whisperer. She is humble, hard-working, conscientious and well known at Frost for being an "unequivocal expert on the processes and regulations underlying student data management." Emily welcomes everyone with a calm, professional manner and has a soft touch when it comes to caring for the school's notoriously finicky orchids. "We KNOW that we are so fortunate to have her on our team," said one colleague.

Regina (Gina) Clautice, Instructional Assistant, Little Run Elementary

Gina is devoted to the students at Little Run. She has great instincts when it comes to meeting student needs and is genuinely happy to be working with children in the special education field. Gina's firm but loving nature makes her a favorite among teachers and students alike. When she's not in the classroom you'll find her cheering on students at a 5k event or interacting with them and their families at the school's annual carnival.

Elizabeth Depalma, Student Information Assistant, Bush Hill Elementary

Elizabeth has made a strong, positive impact in her brief time at Bush Hill. She easily builds genuine relationships and truly cares about people. A family - recently arrived from Sudan - reported how Elizabeth made them feel welcome to the school and the country and how kind and helpful she was during registration process. She is equally supportive to her colleagues as well, whether consoling them or celebrating their successes, Elizabeth is always there.

Belinda Deville, Technology Support Specialist, Mount Vernon High

Belinda is Mount Vernon's, 2015 Mary Jane Thornton Award recipient for outstanding service. She is responsive, courteous and thorough in addressing the needs of the school. Belinda goes beyond simply completing IT requests; she follows up each case to ensure full resolution. She played a key role in the Backpack One-to-One Laptop initiative, collaborating with colleagues to ensure the successful roll out of the program and helping to develop a strategy to distribute 2,067 laptops to students.

Beth Fitzpatrick, Instructional Assistant, Deer Park Elementary

A young man's life was turned around when Beth became his advocate. Struggling to adjust to life in the U.S., an El Salvadorian boy was having trouble fitting in. Beth taught him how to develop positive relationships and showed him, and the staff and students at Deer Park, he *could* learn. "Once in a while we are fortunate enough to encounter a truly remarkable individual," said one colleague. "One that radiates genuine warmth, intelligence and responsibility, Beth is that individual!"

Christine (Chris) Franco, Student Information Assistant, Keene Mill Elementary

Chris is a well-respected member of the Keene Mill staff and always has a kind word, encouragement, or humorous anecdote to share. She wears many hats in her role and is always willing to take on extra responsibilities to support the school's students, staff, administration and parents. She helps new families feel welcome and ensures they are informed about PTA activities and events, thus attracting new volunteers and members, creating a win-win for everyone.

Jerry Gonzalez, Instructional Assistant, Kilmer Middle

Jerry, or "Mr. G" as he is fondly referred to at Kilmer, has worked with the neediest kids since his arrival. At the beginning of the year, he identifies those who might need his support and lobbies to work with them. Jerry thrives on supporting and motivating his students, and they know he is an adult they can trust. "It is impossible to observe Mr. G. and not be in awe of his aptitude for working in this field," said one colleague.

Marian Hoelscher, Office Assistant, Sangster Elementary

Marian exemplifies trustworthiness, benevolence, integrity, and credibility. Sangster wouldn't be the exceptional school it is without her. She is the person you want at your side when things get chaotic. Marian is always calm and professional, acting as finance technician, nurse, problem-solver, ambassador, quiet leader and champion - whatever the situation demands. She is compassionate, and makes people feel like they are the most important person in the room.

Bethany Koszelak, Psychologist, West Potomac High

Bethany actively engages with students about the benefits of maintaining quality mental health and building strong, caring relationships. She is the driving force behind the West Potomac and Bucknell Elementary School mentoring partnership. Bethany's dedication to helping the students of the program leaves a lasting imprint on the lives of the mentees and mentors involved. "Without her, I'm not sure I would've been able to get into George Washington University," said a former student.

Gladys Laureano, Building Supervisor, Waples Mill Elementary

Gladys has built strong relationships at Waples Mill and is highly regarded as an outstanding employee. She sincerely cares about students and maintains a safe, clean environment in which they can learn. Gladys is meticulous, operating and maintaining the building as if it were her own home. She is approachable and eager to help whenever she can. Gladys is a trusted and fair leader of the custodial team and is well-respected for her strong work ethic.

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**William (Bill) Lindsay, Technology Support Specialist,
Lorton Station Elementary**

Bill is an integral staff member at Lorton Station. When presented with any problem or IT request, he listens carefully, explores solutions, and always presents the most efficient path to resolve the situation. He is often seen arriving early and staying late to ensure that the technology is ready for the students. Bill is a role model for students and even dresses up as "Zero the Hero" to support math in the Kindergarten classes.

Lidia Martin, Administrative Assistant, McLean High

Lidia aspires to be at her best everyday. She is always available to talk to students who stop in for a friendly conversation or to translate for an administrator who needs to call a Spanish speaking parent. Lidia's goal is to know as much about McLean as possible so she can answer parents' questions without having to put them on hold. Judging by the number of thank you cards from parents and students on her desk, Lidia has her goal well in-hand.

Brenda Mejia, Student Services Assistant, Glasgow Middle

Brenda is Glasgow's 2015 Support Employee of the Year. She is a tremendous student advocate listening to their concerns and connecting them to people who will help them find solutions to their problems. Brenda mentors a student in the Success Prep program, and volunteers with the girls' afterschool running club. As a new student services assistant, she seeks opportunities to learn and broaden her skill set by taking courses and reaching out to colleagues at other schools.

**Anna Phelps, Instructional Assistant, Transition Support Resource,
Fairfax**

Anna's colleagues have a lot to say about her: profoundly dedicated, patient, compassionate, loves her students unconditionally, motivated, empathetic. "She is truly the most outstanding instructional assistant I have ever encountered and I feel so lucky to have worked with her," said one colleague. Anna possesses a power to bring a smile to the face of the most challenging student. She takes care of them, goes out of her way to ensure students have breakfast and, most of all treats them with respect.

Holley Remer, Instructional Assistant, Chesterbrook Elementary

Every year, Holley welcomes the new kindergarten students at Chesterbrook's open house with a beaming smile, a big hug, and helps them find their teachers. "I can't imagine a more meaningful and special welcome to a new school," said one parent. She never hesitates to help out, regardless of the task; going out of her way to work with staff, student and parents to assist with the day to day operations of the school.

Dania Rivera, Assistant Building Supervisor, Pine Spring Elementary

Dania treats the children and parents of Pine Spring as her extended family. She believes the purpose of her and the custodial team's work is to provide a welcoming, safe and effective environment for children to learn. "If I work hard and give them a clean place to learn, they will want to work hard and make this world a better place," she says. Dania is a conscientious worker who is dedicated to making every school day start out right.

Krista Rivera, Instructional Assistant, Lake Anne Elementary

Krista is an exceptional instructional assistant who takes the time to learn about the needs and abilities of Lake Anne students. At the start of every school year, she shares her knowledge with teachers so that student requirements can be met sooner and they can have a more productive year. Krista demonstrates strong interpersonal skills, and is always willing to help wherever needed. Teachers often say how much they appreciate her support and having Krista in the classroom.

Prasuna Saraswathula, Instructional Assistant, Coates Elementary

Prasuna's commitment to Coates' students is admirable. She is a dedicated and hardworking member of the staff who assists intervention groups in math and science, supports the fifth grade Global Awareness Technology Project, and helps students with guided reading. Prasuna helps out with the Summer Library Mobile; ensuring students without library access receive books. When not doing all of this, she volunteers at the Back to School Boutique and participates in Back to School Night.

Meaghan Tracy, School-Based Technology Specialist, Stone Middle

Meaghan is a highly-skilled relationship builder. Her colleagues say she is easy to talk to and is enthusiastic about technology, teaching and learning. Meaghan has transformed Stone into a model for technology integration. She makes teachers comfortable with new technology and has spearheaded the creation of lessons for students on digital citizenship. Meaghan assists with after school programs such as, "The Hour of Code" and "Girls Who Code," that teach students programming basics and encourages them to create their own innovations using technology.

**Mary Lee Wilkinson, Student Information Assistant,
Poplar Tree Elementary**

Mary Lee makes the transition from home to school a smooth and happy experience. She always greets nervous parents and children when they come to register for kindergarten with a warm and comforting welcome. Mary Lee is the "go-to" person at Poplar Tree, keeping school counselors informed about students, and helping parents with dismissal procedures, or forgotten homework. Countless parents have said they are confident a task will be handled properly because Mary Lee is on the case.

**Sharron Wooden, Technology Support Specialist,
Nancy Sprague Technology Center**

Teachers say Sharron is patient beyond words. She assists those that are not technologically savvy bridge the gaps in a caring and professional manner. Sharron helps kindergarten teachers assess student ability to access computers in the classroom, sets up a plan of action, and regularly checks in with the teachers to ensure students are successful. Sharron's interaction with students at all levels demonstrates her love of technology, and her love of working with them as well.

Non-school based Finalists

OUTSTANDING SUPPORT EMPLOYEE



William (Brice) Boyd, *Coordinator, Grounds Maintenance, Woodson Complex*

Brice has a wealth of experience in turf and landscape management. Like all great leaders, he challenges the status quo in order to make things better for his school and the county. He plays an active role in the environmental programs, Get2Green and MS4 Stormwater, frequently consulting on the requirements for the grounds and runoff water mitigation processes. Brice's responsiveness and problem-solving abilities are his trademark. From developing goodwill with homeowners to cost-saving snow removal, Brice is always solution-focused.



Oscar Calagua, *Business Operations Technical Specialist, Willow Oaks*

Oscar generously offers his knowledge, skills, and expertise in any way that helps others. Oscar collaborates with colleagues across the district to improve systems and services. He is fluent in Spanish and English, and often serves as an interpreter not only in the AAP office but in other offices and schools as well, a true ambassador for FCPS. Oscar is also a 2008 recipient of the Fairfax County Onthank Award.



James (Jim) Lepp, *Producer/Director, Nancy Sprague Technology Center*

Jim is the recipient of numerous awards, including an Emmy Award and several Telly Awards. It is clear he has a passion for what he does. Jim produces FCPS's largest annual event - the Leadership Conference - ensuring it is a world class production in which all of FCPS can take great pride. He is committed to his own professional growth as well as that of his entire team, and is known for his great sense of humor.

Non-school based Nominees

Andrew (Andy) Briggs, *Coordinator, Food Services Finance, Energy Zone Food Service Center*

Andy is humble and openly shares knowledge to encourage productivity and promote growth. He is welcoming and exceptional at promoting positive relationships. Andy helped the new director of nutrition and food services settle into Fairfax and FCPS. He also played a key role in the conversion to MySchoolBucks - it's no wonder Andy is the recipient of several outstanding performance and human resources awards. "It is a rarity to experience such genuine encouragement and support from a coworker," said one colleague.

Sharonda Savoy, *Network Engineer, Wilton Woods Center*

Sharonda has been a cornerstone of the engineering team serving the students of Region 1. She has demonstrated leadership in her field, fostered cooperative relationships with colleagues, and placed student success at the center of her work. During the Marshall High renovation project, Sharonda managed the successful transition of the school's network, making it one of the best in the county. She is always available to answer questions and offer guidance, no matter what time you email or call.

Eleanor (Ellie) Stack, *Coordinator, PreK-12 Adapted Curriculum, Willow Oaks*

Ellie projects a warm, cheerful attitude to staff, students, and parents. She handles difficult situations with remarkable patience and tact. Ellie loves people, works hard and she goes out of her way to help those in need. Communication and collaboration are key skills in her line of work and she is adept at both. Ellie provides her staff and colleagues opportunities to learn and grow by the positive influence and impact she makes within FCPS.

John Torre, *Public Information Officer, Gatehouse Administration Center I*

John is the 2015 recipient of the Fairfax Association of Elementary School Principals' Service and Impact Award. Some say he has the most challenging job in the school system. He's always on the frontline when negative issues arise; often requiring him to manage a difficult situation while balancing competing demands from stakeholders with a relentless news cycle. But, John approaches everything with professionalism and a great sense of humor. Maintaining positive relationships with principals and the media, ensuring FCPS's information sharing builds trust and promotes mutual respect.

Varlanda (Deloris) Witcher, *Occupational Therapist, Alan Leis Center*

Deloris is an empathetic, compassionate, and extraordinary Occupational Therapist. She conducts training sessions for teachers and instructional assistants throughout the school year providing them with solutions and information designed to optimize student learning and protect their health and safety. Recently, she worked with the public health nurse and school administrators to develop guidelines for washing and sanitizing mealtime adaptive equipment. Deloris' dedication to her work is known countywide. She is generous with her expertise, sharing her training series with teachers and paraprofessionals alike.

Outstanding Business Partner

Finalists

Capital One

Students at four FCPS middle schools, Jackson, Poe, Kilmer and Thoreau, have participated in the "Capital One Coders" after-school club. The talented Capital One employees, using a curriculum from MIT, teach students how to use computer code in order to create their own apps. Students learn and apply 21st century skills and work interdependently. At the end of the program, each student is invited to a dinner event at Capital One headquarters where they are surprised with a gift of a Google Chrome book. Capital One was also nominated separately for their mentorship program with students at Marshall High School.

Dewberry

For over 22 years, Dewberry has been committed to promoting the study of math and science to students at Luther Jackson Middle School. Through Expanding Visions, a program which enhances the middle school STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) curriculum, Dewberry engineers come into the classroom to show students real-world applications of math and science, and excite them about possible careers in the field. Dewberry employees also provide weekly tutoring after school in math, and support the Expanding Visions Olympiad, an annual event in which students use teamwork and problem solving skills to solve various challenges. Dewberry also provides financial support for Expanding Visions, and sits on both the program advisory committee and the fundraising committee.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers #26 (IBEW)

IBEW offers financial support and volunteers to the Edison Academy Electrical Trades Program and the Chantilly Academy Robotics Program. IBEW supports students by funding resources and equipment needed for projects and activities. IBEW volunteers offer their time as guest lecturers in the classroom and provide one-on-one support for students seeking apprenticeship and training opportunities in order to pursue a career in the technical trades post-graduation.

Northrop Grumman Corporation

Northrop Grumman has partnered with Chantilly High School and Chantilly Academy for over 25 years. Northrop Grumman professionals mentor several clubs including Girls Exploring Engineering, FIRST Robotics, and CyberPatriot. Countless students have been directly impacted through financial gifts of technology resources and equipment. One employee in particular has taught summer camp each summer, and given up every Saturday during competition season to support the team. Many students have pursued careers in STEM because of the relationships they have developed with the mentors from Northrop Grumman, and several are now Northrop Grumman employees.

Westfield Business Owners Association (WBOA)

No request is too small or too large when it comes to the WBOA's commitment to supporting FCPS schools and students in the Westfield High School pyramid. Assistance has included financial support for the Hungry Kids breakfast and lunch program, purchasing laptops for the student loaner program, donating furniture and equipment for classrooms, sponsoring student interns in area businesses, and volunteering as mentors and judges for school events such as the Science Fair. The organization has also held annual events such as the Taste of Westfield and Westfield Triathlon to promote community spirit and raise funds for these worthy causes.



Screening Committee

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Fairfax County Public Schools

Jay Garant

Administrator
Business and Community Partnerships

Elizabeth Murphy

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Patricia Stevens

Executive Director
Fairfax County Office of Public Private
Partnerships

Dwight Yamada

Board Member
Foundation for Fairfax County
Public Schools

C2 Solutions Group, Inc.

C2 Solutions has helped athletic programs thrive at three FCPS high schools since 2005. The company provides volunteer coaches, practice uniforms, professional photography, facilities maintenance and other equipment.

Deloitte Consulting

Deloitte partners with Langley and Oakton High Schools to provide student mentoring. Mentors meet with their student twice a month throughout the school year and focus on college and career readiness topics.

F.H. Furr Plumbing, HVAC & Electrical, Inc. (F.H. Furr)

F.H. Furr supports McLean High School and Longfellow Middle School with funds for school improvements and activities, and opportunities for students to complete community service projects.

Goodwin House – Alexandria

The Goodwin House offers students with disabilities at Edison High School work training opportunities. Students work part-time at Goodwin House, learn how to interact with a supervisor, remain focused on tasks, and learn other skills necessary to obtain employment.

Hooray for Books

Hooray for Books partners with Cameron Elementary School by bringing nationally known authors to the school as speakers. A highlight this year was the visit of Jane O'Connor, the author of the Fancy Nancy chapter book series.

Homewood Suites Hotel

Homewood Suites partners with the Davis Career Center to offer on-site work training for students with disabilities. Homewood Suites staff provides this support 5 days a week for 5 hours each day and have hired two former Davis Center students.

International Country Club (ICC)

ICC has created an inclusive work environment for students in the Chantilly HS Career Preparation Class who have intellectual disabilities and autism. ICC provides a work-setting classroom in the hospitality industry and helps students learn job skills as well as life skills, consistent with the Commonwealth's Workplace Readiness Skills.

Serco

Serco has been a business partner with South Lakes High School for the past seven years, providing work experiences for students with disabilities. At Serco, on any given day, these students help restock office supplies, clean the kitchens, work in the mail room, and deliver mail to employees.

Trademasters

The Edison Academy's HVAC & Refrigeration program has partnered with Trademasters, a company owned by a former FCPS student, for over 15 years. Through guest lectures, mentorships, access to professional resources and training materials, as well as financial support, Trademasters has been dedicated to preparing the next generation of employees in the skilled trades fields.

Twin Tech, LLC Heating and Cooling

Thanks to Twin Tech, third-graders at Chesterbrook Elementary School participate in an extra-special yearly celebration of ancient cultures. Twin Tech volunteers transform part of the school into an Egyptian tomb, complete with a maze of tunnels, a tomb room and a mummy.

Volkswagen Group of America

Volkswagen provides funding to purchase food for Dranesville Elementary School's weekend backpack program for students who would otherwise not have food at their home. The company also provides volunteers to help pack the food bags that are sent home.



Outstanding Community Partner

Finalists

Assistance League of Northern Virginia (League)

The League is a 100% volunteer organization that puts caring and commitment into action. During the 2015-16 school year, the League will provide over 6,000 weekend food bags to students at three FCPS elementary schools; over \$11,000 worth of clothing and personal items to children in extreme need at five FCPS elementary schools; and League volunteers will provide individual reading tutoring for 30 at-risk students in 1st grade. Over 500 volunteer hours have been given in the past five years, and close to \$50,000 in donated food. Nominators Christine Slattery and Janet Dougherty write: "In our work around Eric Jensen's book, *Teaching with Poverty in Mind*, we know...basic needs need to be met first before students can be available for learning in school...As a result of the [League's] support, schools are able to provide basic essentials...to families in need."

Fairfax Law Foundation (Law Foundation)

The Fairfax Law Foundation has facilitated trips for FCPS students to the Fairfax County Courthouse for over 30 years. With budget cuts in 2008, the Law Foundation began providing the funding for bus transportation and substitute teacher pay so that every middle school in FCPS has an opportunity to schedule two field trips. While at the Courthouse, lawyers serve as tour guides, and students listen to and speak with judges in the Circuit Court and Juvenile and Delinquency Court. Students have the opportunity to pose questions to both the attorneys and the judges, and see the holding cells where defendants are kept awaiting their hearing or trial. This first-hand experience leaves a lasting impression on students as they experience the reality of the local judicial system.

Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE)

GRACE has been working with FCPS schools since 1976, and partners with FCPS through three programs. GRACE Art – an art education outreach program - supplements and supports students' school art experience through parent volunteers, trained under the auspices of GRACE staff. The GRACE Art programs reach over 20,000 students per year, with over 200 parent volunteers. Emerging Visions program offers FCPS high school students a chance to exhibit their art and learn from professional artists at the GRACE gallery. Most recently, a pilot STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) program involved 350 FCPS students, helping them make the creative connection between art and science in workshops for teachers and students. GRACE also serves on the FCPS STEAM advisory council.

Kids R First

An all-volunteer organization, Kids R First partners with FCPS through the Collect for Kids effort and commits to provide school supplies for all students from low income families. Through relationships cultivated with local retail stores, Kids R First pays \$1 for \$3 worth of school supplies. In 2015, Kids R First provided customized school supplies to 25,000 students in over 60 FCPS schools. In early August, volunteers from local businesses load the supplies into multiple tractor trailers and transport them to Hughes Middle School in Reston, where they are sorted into individual school orders. Other non-profit partners provide donated backpacks directly to the schools. In 2015-2016, Kids R First purchased over 319,000 supplies, with a retail value of over \$500,000. Kids R First also offers mini-scholarships to assist high school students in need participate in programs and activities related to applying for college or securing employment through its College and Career Bound Program.

Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation (WRCF)

For almost three years, WRCF has engaged FCPS and several schools in collaborative discussions and innovative programs that benefit the educational, social, and fitness and nutrition needs of students. 100 students from Crestwood and Saratoga Elementary Schools were taken on a personal shopping experience to choose new winter coats. Students and staff chaperones at several schools have been invited to Redskins Park and FedEx Field to participate in educational and health related activities. Lee High School and several of Lee's feeder schools benefited from WRCF programs and resources designed to aid in the development of character, commitment and drive through their 4th and Life High School Football Program. Lee and five other high schools were provided "pink out" gear and spirit wear to promote Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Key Middle School received a grant for \$10,000 to design a program to effect fitness nutrition goals for students. WRCF launched an Education Advisory Council involving several FCPS principals so that WRCF programs continue to improve.

FCPS
Honors

Screening Committee

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Fairfax County Public Schools*

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Apple Federal Credit Union (Apple FCU)

For over 60 years Apple FCU and the Apple FCU Education Foundation have been integrally involved with FCPS. Apple FCU programs include (among many others) the Great Beginnings program for new FCPS teachers; school supply, winter coat, food and toy drives for needy students and their families; a mentoring program; and a kindergarten reading program. (Award Winner: 2010)

Asian American LEAD (AA LEAD)

AA LEAD supports low-income and underserved Asian Pacific American youth with educational empowerment, identity development, and leadership opportunities through after school programs at Annandale High School, Poe Middle School and Holmes Middle School.

Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture (Arcadia)

Arcadia's Educational Programs engage more than 1,500 students from nine FCPS elementary schools annually. Arcadia helps students learn about the farm-to-table process via classroom visits and fieldtrips to its demonstration farm in southern Fairfax County.

Children's Science Center (Center)

Since 2010, students and their parents have been able to participate in fun, accessible STEM (science, technology, engineering & math) learning through hands-on activities at Family Science nights at elementary schools throughout FCPS. The Center's newly opened Lab is a destination for STEM-related field trips and more hands-on learning opportunity for students.

College Access Fairfax (CAF)

CAF offers assistance to FCPS students and their parents attempting to navigate the often daunting financial aid process for college. Financial aid clinics, parent seminars on paying for college, and specially trained counselors at area high schools are a few of the ways CAF supports college-bound students.

Dunn Loring/Merrifield Rotary Club (DLM Rotary)

Since 2010, the Dun Loring/Merrifield Rotary has provided scholarships to 20 students at the Fairfax County Adult High School. While struggling to finish high school against many odds, the scholarships have enabled these adult students to take college courses after their high school graduation when they might not otherwise have been able to afford them.

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park (ECLP)

The staff at ECLP has provided work-based learning classes and activities to students with disabilities from Chantilly High School for over 25 years. Students learn to enjoy and respect the environment while developing necessary work skills for future employment.

Fairfax County Council of PTAs (FCCPTA)

FCCPTA offers PTA programs, leadership opportunities, training and resources to 175 school PTA/PTSAs in Fairfax County. FCCPTA also offers recognition and awards programs for students in all FCPS schools.

Franconia United Methodist Church (Franconia UMC)

Franconia UMC members have provided reading, math and science tutoring, food support, and much more, to students in need at Franconia Elementary School. One volunteer writes: "...the joy and love this church feels for the staff and families of FES is remarkable and has a simple goal of nurturing future citizens..."

Girls on the Run NOVA (GOTR NOVA)

GOTR volunteer coaches guide and mentor 3rd – 8th grade girls through running games and conversations designed to teach healthy goal-setting. The 10 week season culminates in a 5K fun run, and the program results in a sense of community among the participants, and encourages the girls to share their strengths.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (GSLC)

GSLC provides 100 food bags each month for students at Dranesville Elementary school. The food bags go home with students-in-need as part of the school's weekend backpack food program.

Jill's House

Students with moderate to severe disabilities at several FCPS schools receive fun social engagement activities and learn independent life skills at Jill's House. Jill's house also offers overnight respite care so that parents are free to spend time with other family members.

McLean Project for the Arts (MPA)

MPA's ArtReach program provides engaging art-making activities to FCPS students in all grades through field trips and in-classroom sessions. Many of the participants may not otherwise have the opportunity to experience the enjoyment of learning and creating art.

Messiah United Methodist Church (MUMC)

Several volunteers from MUMC tutor students at Cardinal Forest Elementary school. Not only do the tutors assist students academically, but they build meaningful relationships during their year-long commitment.

The Old Firehouse

The Old Firehouse has provided many benefits to students and families in the McLean High School and Langley High School pyramids. Music, athletic, booster and other clubs have received free use of the space and other in-kind support for over 25 years.

Rotary Club of Reston (RCR)

The RCR members volunteer their time and money to multiple FCPS schools in the Reston area. Contributions include food for weekend backpack programs, professional development for teachers, dictionaries for third graders and mentoring of first graders as they learn to read.

Springfield Mason Lodge 217 (Masons)

The Masons, through the Masonic Angel Fund, provide assistance to children at Cardinal Forest Elementary School who do not fit the criteria for the usual social-service programs. Assistance might include a pair of glasses, a coat, field trip fees or a minor health expense – any need that will enhance a child's learning experience.

St. Joseph Ladies Society (Society)

The Society ensures that over 80 food bags go home in backpacks each month to students in need at Dranesville Elementary school. Thanks to the Society, these students are more productive at school because they do not have to worry about being hungry.

Tyson's Regional Chamber of Commerce (TRCC)

The Youth & Education Committee of TRCC makes meaningful connections between TRCC member businesses and students at surrounding schools. Those connections include a job shadow program for high school juniors and seniors, and the Chamber Stars Program for students in all grades who have overcome significant personal or academic adversity.

Outstanding Leader

The Outstanding Leader Award recognizes employees who have made a significant impact on students through leadership in their field. Winners demonstrate outstanding leadership in the workplace, strengthen and improve the learning environment through their work, and advance the FCPS student goals of: pursuing academic excellence, developing essential life skills, and demonstrating responsibility to the community and the world. Employees may be nominated for a specific project or initiative, or for sustained, noteworthy contributions to the academic mission of FCPS. Both instructional and support employees are eligible for this award.

Previous Recipients

- 2015** Gordon Jenkins, Coordinator, Technology Support Service Center, Information Technology
- 2014** Ed Tyler, Data Services Coordinator, Information Technology
Carol Horn, Gifted and Talented Coordinator, Instructional Services
- 2013** Colleen Eddy, English Teacher, Oakton HS
Connie Nie, Manager, Network Security, Information Technology
- 2012** Mark Emery, Administrator, Office of After-School Programs, Division Superintendent
Pat Fege, Language Arts Coordinator, K-12, Instructional Services
- 2011** Craig Herring, Coordinator, School Support, Instructional Services
Rebecca Iannuzzi, Instructional Coach, Dogwood ES
Chris Weber, School-Based Technology Specialist, Clifton ES

Finalists



Holly DeVore, Assistant Principal, Oak Hill Elementary

Holly is so organized her daily planner is color coded. One colleague called it a work of art. She was instrumental in bringing Responsive Instruction to Oak Hill, and spent countless hours learning everything necessary for implementation. Holly is a trusted colleague, known for her warm smile and down to earth personality. Parents feel safe sharing things with Holly they don't feel comfortable sharing with others. She can find a connection with any child and often mentors challenging students.



John Dooley, Coordinator, Network and System Services, Wilton Woods Center

Mentorship, service and support: the foundation of John's career since serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. After the marines, he joined the Fairfax County Police Department, FCPS, and also graduated from the FBI National Academy of Management. With this wellspring of service and experience John was well prepared for the diverse responsibilities associated with supporting school IT operations. It is also evident in the coaching and volunteer activities John is dedicated to in Fairfax County.



Deborah Jackson, Special Projects Administrator, Human Resources, Gatehouse Administrative Center

Deborah has established a reputation as an extremely capable, effective school administrator. She consistently displays qualities of initiative, conscientiousness and professionalism. For more than 15 years she has mentored employees; taking talented teacher leaders and providing the means for them to realize their potential as principals. Deborah shares and extends her learning by serving several professional organizations. Most recently, she was the president of Learning Forward International, the only national organization devoted to advancing professional learning for student success.



Screening Committee

Fred Amico

*Principal
Langley High School
Region 1*

Michelle Eugene

*Principal
Shreveewood Elementary School
Region 2*

Teresa Hinds

*Food Services Operations Specialist
Financial Services*

Jill Jakulski

*Special Projects Administrator
Special Services*

Gordon Jenkins

*Coordinator
Technology Support Service Center
Information Technology
Former Leadership Award Winner*

Carol-Ann Lingenfelder

*Business Operations Supervisor
Facilities and Transportation*

Patty Meagher

*Classification and
Compensation Specialist
Human Resources*

Robert (Bob) Allen, Grade 6, Poe Middle

Bob is committed to the success of Poe. He works diligently to motivate students, including sharing his own experiences of overcoming struggles in education and championing programs that help prepare students bound for college. Bob often drops into classrooms to talk to students about what they are most excited about learning that day. After these visits he communicates with teachers about the great things he saw that week and praises them for “making it happen” in their classrooms.

Rosemary Angel, Reading Specialist, Keene Mill Elementary

Rosemary’s dedication to have all Keene Mill students reading at or above grade level is a testament to her success as an educator. She works with teachers to increase reading achievement, leads student groups in reading intervention, monitors all 762 students’ reading levels, and maintains a literacy center of more than 1000 books. Teachers appreciate the lengths she goes to assist them with lesson preparation and agree that her expertise is invaluable to their learning and becoming better teachers.

Melissa Chang, Instructional Coach, Riverside Elementary

Melissa’s colleagues are convinced she possesses superhuman powers. She was instrumental in getting two intervention programs off the ground at Riverside, the Dream Box program and the afterschool math program. Melissa has created a nonjudgmental environment for adults and students alike. She enjoys a great rapport with staff, and generously gives her time to help them develop their instructional skillset. Melissa also supports teacher development outside of Riverside by teaching FCPS Academy courses.

Elizabeth Croy, Physical Education, Oak Hill Elementary

Elizabeth is dedicated to the health and wellbeing of the Oak Hill community. In addition to coordinating flu shots, running groups, Triple-A safety patrol and organizing wellness challenges for the school’s Golden Wellness award submissions, Elizabeth volunteers as the head coach of the girls’ basketball team in the annual technology fundraising game against Oak Hill rivals Lees Corner, and co-coordinates the Jump Rope Program that bi-annually raises more than \$20,000 for the American Heart Association.

Brian Lachance, School-Based Technology Specialist, Keene Mill Elementary

Brian’s greatest skill as an educator is making technology accessible for everyone. Recently, he collaborated with colleagues on a successful Innovation Grant application that made it possible to purchase 32 iPads so first-graders could participate in a Google 20Time project. Brian meets teachers and students at their level, encouraging them to use instructional technology and showing them things they may have never imagined possible.

Debbie Lorenzo, Coordinator IV, Procedural Support, Special Services, Willow Oaks Administrative Center

Whether by phone, email, or in-person, Debbie is always available to listen and support the needs of staff and parents and provide helpful feedback. She nurtures collaborative and cooperative relationships with colleagues and the community to ensure students learn and grow academically, emotionally and socially. Debbie supports the special education process by keeping staff informed of issues related to the field, supporting their professional growth and modeling diplomacy and compassion when interacting with colleagues and parents.

Laura Reed, School-Based Technology Specialist, Frost Middle

Laura is always looking for ways to implement technology to further Frost’s academic goals. She ensures students have access to the tools necessary for 21st century learning, and gives software and hardware workshops to staff and teachers, often presenting the same material several times a day to ensure everyone has an opportunity to participate. Last year, in honor of Frost’s 50th anniversary, she singlehandedly created a 5k fun run that has since become the school’s primary fundraiser event.



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Outstanding First-Year Principal

The Outstanding First-Year Principal: Nancy F. Sprague Leadership Award recognizes a distinguished first-year principal who demonstrates extraordinary leadership qualities and exceptional administrative abilities. This award is given in memory of Dr. Nancy F. Sprague, symbolizing her significant contributions, and the contributions of each year's winner.

Dr. Sprague served as chief academic officer and assistant superintendent for instructional services in FCPS. She was instrumental in creating programs that develop and support first-year administrators. Her prowess as a leader and true passion for maximizing learning opportunities for children and adults made her an outstanding professional educator. Any FCPS employee or community member may nominate a first-year principal for this award.

Finalists



Paul Basdekis, *Riverside Elementary*

As a former baseball MVP and All-American, Paul understands the significance of teamwork. For him, leading a team means building effective relationships, communicating expectations clearly, and sometimes having to make hard decisions. Paul led the charge by implementing student recognition programs, reaching out to Riverside's diverse community and even flipped several hundred hotdogs and hamburgers along the way. Paul believes that effort and attitude underpin academic achievement, and collaborated with the Riverside community to ensure there was a shared vision for school improvement. His enthusiasm is infectious, and it is palatable when you walk around the school. "The school just feels like a happy place," said one parent.



Erin Lenart, *Lanier Middle*

Erin says the greatest lesson she learned was embracing the fact that she is not alone. "The same collaboration that made me a better classroom teacher is continuously making me a better principal," she said. Erin has had many rich and diverse experiences, but nothing prepared her for the emotional intensity she would have for the students and staff at Lanier, "Certainly, the day you are announced, you understand great responsibility abounds, but you also become a part of the lives and stories of every single individual in your community, and you realize that you must work to find tools to inspire a new and better story."

Nominees

Frederick (Fred) Amico, Jr., *Langley High*

Fred was excited and transformed by "the awesome responsibility of creating a culture and community of learners." He is always there to cheer on students and faculty who commit themselves to excellence, and continuously looks for ways to improve programs, student performance and the overall school atmosphere. Fred uses data to measure Langley's success in meeting student needs, and encourages his teachers and collaborative teams to use data in the classroom and for instructional planning.

Elizabeth Bumbrey, *Fairfax Villa Elementary*

Elizabeth began her tenure as principal by evaluating where Fairfax Villa was excelling and what needed improvement. She created a plan for the future that focuses on closing the gap for Hispanic students, creating a more team-oriented staff and offering more individual professional development. Elizabeth's vision places high expectations on teachers and students and provides the tools for their success. It also recognizes the strong traditions and academic excellence that have represented Fairfax Villa for the past 50 years.



Screening Committee

Rebecca Baenig

*Executive Principal
Region 5*

Michelle Makrigiorgos

*Principal
Louise Archer Elementary School
Region 1*

Eric McCann

*Principal
Frost Middle School*

JoVon Rogers

*Principal
Gunston Elementary School*

Greg Rupert

*Coordinator
Food Services Administration
Financial Services*

Linda Sperling

*TJHSST Admissions Specialist
Chief of Staff Office*

Previous Recipients

2015 Eric McCann

Frost MS

2014 JoVon Rogers

Gunston ES

2013 Marsha Manning

South County MS

2012 Carlyn Floyd

Quander Road School

2011 Terrence Yarborough

Sandburg MS

2010 Jesse Kraft

Providence ES

2009 Carole Kihm

Longfellow MS

2008 Nardos King

Mount Vernon HS

Shawn DeRose, Glasgow Middle

In his first year, Shawn established an administrative collaborative team and invested in professional development for teacher leaders. He worked with faculty to define quality classroom instruction and further develop Glasgow's commitment to the social and emotional needs of students. He says "[These accomplishments] have come as a result of recognizing the strengths of staff members, developing their capacity, providing them meaningful opportunities for growth, and valuing and growing from their leadership and feedback."

Gary Morris, Mountain View Alternative High

Gary hit the ground running as soon as his tenure started; change couldn't wait and there were decisions that needed to happen immediately. "I have found every day, every challenge, and every opportunity to solve a problem an opportunity to be better," he said. Gary established a student congress in which students could freely express their concerns and encouraged open dialogue among staff and invited their participation in the planning and execution of programs to improve Mountain View.

Jane Quenneville, Kilmer Center

Jane immediately took charge and began turning a tired, old building into an environment that shows staff and students they deserve the best, and soon staff morale improved and visitors took notice. Building on this momentum, she revised student behavior intervention plans, obtained funding for new academic kits, supplies and technology. Jane is working to re-establish the PTA, and to educate the community about the special needs population and the school's commitment to providing them with the best opportunities.

Gordon Stokes, Carson Middle

Gordon says becoming a new principal is like joining a story already in progress, a story that involves 1475 students, 145 staff members, an engaged parent community, and a proud history. His excitement and positive demeanor permeate the halls of Carson. "It's clear that this is not just a job to him," said one student. "But that he truly wants to make a difference in our lives, and help us to achieve our full potential in everything that we do."

Dylan Taylor, Willow Springs Elementary

Dylan says relationships are how the work gets done. He used Back-to-School Night and weekly emails to outline his vision for a school committed to the collaborative development of rigorous instruction employing whatever tools necessary to meet the needs of all learners. Dylan said it was important to gain credibility and get buy-in from staff, students, and the community; strong relationships with all stakeholders become "productive collaborations as we look toward the future of the school."



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Outstanding Principal

The Outstanding Principal Award recognizes an extraordinary principal who demonstrates superior leadership qualities and creates an exceptional educational environment. The recipient of this award is a strong leader and highly effective administrator. They are a committed, knowledgeable educator whose vision inspires and guides staff, students, and the community to help lead their school to excellence.

The winner is also a finalist for *The Washington Post* Principal of the Year Award. Established in 1986, this premier educational award recognizes excellence in school leadership within public school systems and private schools in the Washington metropolitan area.

Parents, students, administrators, FCPS employees, Fairfax County government employees, and Fairfax County citizens may nominate principals for this prestigious award.

Previous Recipients

- 2015 William Bates, Jr., Herndon High
- 2014 Jay Pearson, Marshall HS
- 2013 Timothy Thomas, Westfield HS
- 2012 Robyn Cochran, Dogwood ES
- 2011 Maureen Marshall, Garfield ES
- 2010 August Frattali, Carson MS
- 2009 Deirdre Lavery, Glasgow MS
- 2008 Brian Hull, Powell ES
- 2007 Dale Rumberger, South County SS
- 2006 Stephen Hockett, McNair ES
- 2005 Audra Sydnor, Liberty MS
- 2004 Barbara Gernat, Mountain View HS
- 2003 Patricia Heiselberg, Laurel Ridge ES
- 2002 Michelle Peyser, Franklin MS
- 2001 Luke Fennell, Edison HS
- 2000 Vera Blake, Falls Church HS
- 1999 Janet Funk, Halley ES
- 1998 Gail Womble, Longfellow MS
- 1997 Calanthia Tucker, Mount Vernon HS
- 1996 Richard Lavine, Rocky Run MS
- 1995 Mary Carter, Graham Road ES
- 1994 Carol Franz, Bailey's ES
- 1993 Sandra Culmer, Poplar Tree ES
- 1992 James Moulton, Jr., Marshall HS
- 1991 Cos Renzi, Timber Lane ES
- 1990 Carolyn Buckenmaier, White Oaks ES
- 1989 George Towery, Cameron ES
- 1988 Raymond Watson, Annandale HS
- 1987 Norman Bradford, Madison HS



Screening Committee

William Bates

*Principal
Herndon High School
Region 1*

Sam Elson

*Principal
Kings Glen Elementary School
Region 4*

Andy Grunig

*Communications Specialist
Chief of Staff Office*

Janet Hampton-Loomis

*Special Services Transportation Specialist
Facilities and Transportation*

Deborah Jackson

*Special Projects Administrator
Human Resources*

Noel Klimenko

*Director
PreK-12 Curriculum and Instruction
Instructional Services*

Grace Taylor

*Executive Principal
Region 3*



Justine Klena, *Herndon Middle*

Justine is an unwavering optimist. For her, problems are opportunities to engage with her staff to make Herndon a better and more supportive learning environment for students. "I am at my best when I can help everyone who works at our school be at their best so we are a great school for our students," says Justine.

In a 2015 survey, teachers and parents overwhelmingly agreed that Justine is committed to student learning and that her exemplary leadership makes Herndon a good place to work and learn. "If I had my way, I would work for Ms. Klena for the rest of my career," wrote one employee.

Justine's leadership reaches beyond the classroom as well, supporting her staff as they respond to a changing and diverse community, and frequently collaborating with community partners to address the fundamental needs of students and their families.

Finalists



Maureen Boland, *Rolling Valley Elementary*

Maureen exemplifies leadership; involving teachers, staff, parents, students, and the community in creating and fostering a shared vision for Rolling Valley. She believes her staff should have every opportunity to continue learning about the field of education by providing professional development and mentorship, "I began to LOVE the craft of teaching more than I ever thought possible," wrote one colleague. Maureen doesn't just talk the talk; she walks the walk and is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in Educational Leadership.



Renee Miller, *Keene Mill Elementary*

Renee's insight, compassion and tenacity have made a profound impact on the Keene Mill community. Since her tenure, she and her staff have worked together to re-establish school routines, implement professional learning communities and re-engage parents in Keene Mill. She helps staff achieve their full potential and gives them the tools to do what is best for their students. As a humble and committed leader, Renee is a true asset to the education profession and to FCPS.



Barbara Messinger, Canterbury Woods Elementary

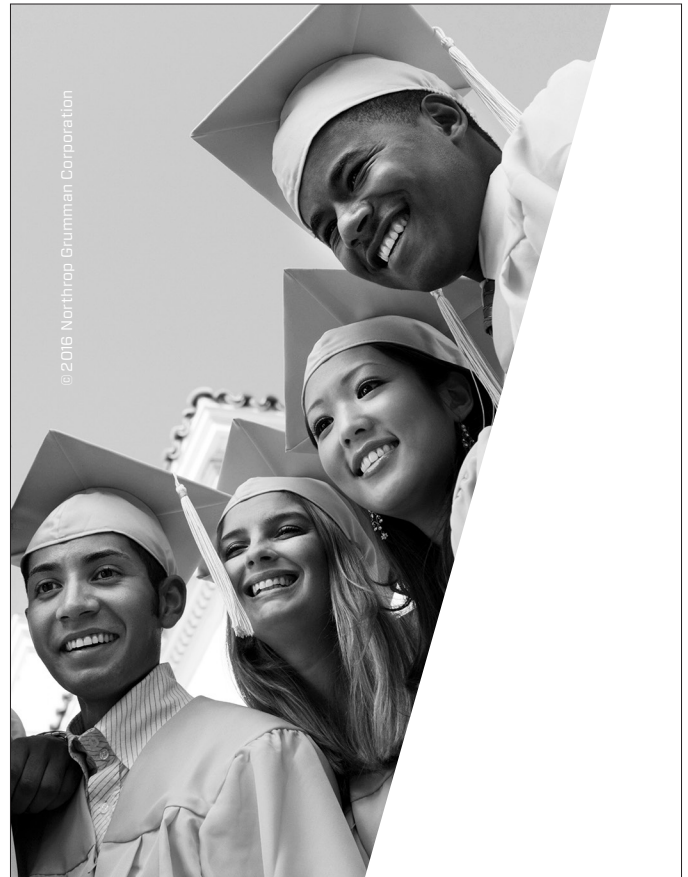
Barbara is an innovative principal who is passionate and dedicated to her students, staff and community alike. She believes that every student is a valued member of the Canterbury Woods community and works very hard to ensure their success. When it comes to best practices, "Barb reads everything," and thoroughly researches the topic before sharing it with her staff. Her high expectations empower everyone to give their best.

Sharon Williams, Poplar Tree Elementary

Sharon is an extraordinary leader known for going that extra mile to help support her school, the children and community; even if it means kissing a pig! Sharon holds everyone to exacting standards and encourages staff and students to reach his or her potential. Her trust in her staff speaks volumes to the day-to-day collegiality, and is the first cheerleader for every child instilling hope and improving the educational experience for every person at Poplar Tree.

Terrence Yarborough, Sandburg Middle

Terrence didn't allow something like a \$36M renovation disrupt the day-to-day activities at Sandburg. In fact, he turned the renovation into an opportunity and transformed an unused observatory into a problem-based learning center that will benefit students for years to come. Through his exceptional foresight and leadership, Terrence has turned Sandburg into the kind of school that the community is eager to send their children, and a place where students are proud to attend.



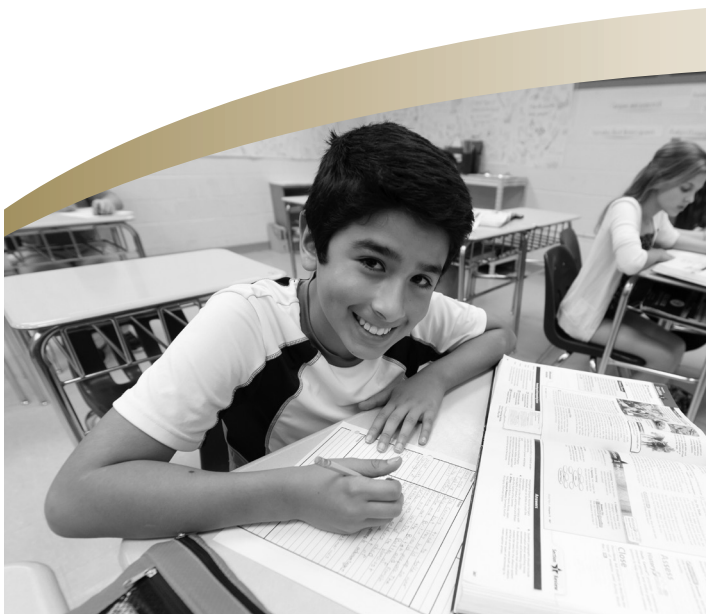
THE VALUE OF BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

When people work together to help students thrive, they change lives, strengthen communities, and make the world a better place. Congratulations to all of tonight's nominees.

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