

Golden Apple Foundation

NEWS RELEASE

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10 Chicago-area teachers named winners of Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching

(CHICAGO — May 13, 2009) Golden Apple Foundation, which is dedicated to recognizing and developing excellence in teaching, today announced the names of 10 Chicago-area winners of the 2009 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching in grades Pre-K through 3.

The 10 winners include five teachers at Chicago schools (Bright, Mayer, Otis, Ruiz, University of Chicago Lab); two Cook Co. suburban schools (Dryden, Arlington Heights; Hunter Ridge, Palatine); One DuPage Co. school (Child's Voice, Wood Dale), and two Lake Co. schools (Red Oak, Highland Park; Sprague, Lincolnshire).

A total of 972 teachers from Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and Will counties were nominated for the award, which was first presented in 1986. Thirty finalists were named in March.

Each of the 10 Golden Apple Award winners will receive a tuition-free spring-term sabbatical at Northwestern University; a personal computer; \$3,000; and membership in the Golden Apple Academy of Educators, which now has inducted 230 expert teachers who work together to ensure that all children have the excellent teachers they deserve.

The Awards selection committee is comprised of distinguished Chicago-area educators. Two selection committee members observed each of the 30 finalists in their classroom and interviewed their principal and selected colleagues, parents and students.

In addition to the 10 Award winners, Golden Apple is recognizing XX Teachers of Distinction — Award finalists whose superior teaching work was noted by the selection committee. The Teachers of Distinction are recognized for their distinguished contribution to teaching and are asked to participate in Golden Apple programs.

The Award winners and Teachers of Distinction will be honored at an awards ceremony on Sept. 25 at the WTTW Chicago Production Center, 5400 N. St. Louis Ave., which subsequently will be aired as a one-hour prime-time special on WTTW/Channel 11.

The baskets of apples presented to the Award winners at the surprise classroom visits were provided by Mrs. Prindable's Handmade Confections of Chicago.

Following is a detailed list of the Award winners and Teachers of Distinction:

Winners of the 2009 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching

- **Jeanette Hachmeister**
Pre-K, Beginning 1st
Child's Voice School
180 Hansen Court, **Wood Dale**
630-595-8200

Singing plays a major role in Jeanette Hachmeister's classroom. She values the benefits of engaging students through music and movement. If you ask her, "Why do you sing?" she quickly answers that for hearing-impaired students the singing helps them with language patterns and more importantly helps their brain solidify what they heard into thought processes. Jeanette has created a safe and secure atmosphere for her 28 students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Her students range in age from three to seven and their academic levels vary as well. Jeanette believes with the advent of cochlear implants and better hearing aids, children as young as infants can access sound. She believes if a child can perceive sound then they can learn language and speech. Jeanette Hachmeister is a creative advocate for hearing-impaired students and their parents.

- **Christina Hayward**
Kindergarten
University of Chicago Laboratory Schools
1362 E. 59th St., **Chicago**
773-702-2129

Christina Hayward feels the most important facet of her teaching is social and emotional learning. She wants her five- and six year-olds to learn how to recognize and name emotions, to show concern for others, to make and keep friends, to resolve conflicts, and to make good choices. She believes having her kindergarteners learn about the lives and work of Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, who found ways to change the world, especially powerful since their accomplishments are so tuned to issues of fairness. Christina refers to her classroom environment as the "other teacher." She intentionally chooses to engage her students in conversation and ask questions that support critical thinking and problem solving such as, "How can you make the world a better place?" and "What can you do to make the problem smaller?" Christina treats each child as an individual and listens to their voice to identify the ways they reveal themselves.

- **Maria Hernandez**
3rd grade bilingual
Ruiz School
2410 S. Leavitt St., **Chicago**
773-535-4825

Maria Hernandez's greatest strength is her embrace of every aspect of teaching. She wants her 27 limited-English-proficient students to understand that they all have different learning styles and strengths. She feels it is important for her students to identify and recognize their strengths in order to develop ownership of their own education. The highlight of Maria's teaching comes when she becomes a facilitator in the student's quest to seek answers and prove or disprove theories. Her expectations for students reach beyond the classroom. She wants to "mathematize" the world around her students. She wants them to be as investigative as a scientist, to take a pen and paper and be an author! She expects them to believe in themselves and keep the "*Sí se puede!* Yes I can!" motto close to their heart.

- **Melissa Hooker**
Montessori Early Childhood
Mayer Magnet
2250 N. Clifton Ave., **Chicago**
773-534-5535

Teaching music has given Melissa Hooker the fortunate experience of having taught every student in her school at some point each year. Several years ago Melissa spearheaded the change of the annual all-school play over three community nights. Instead of 50 children being involved in the play, every student now has a chance to perform in a community presentation centered on the curriculum in their classrooms. Her students love sharing their talents with the local communities in the Pilsen area. She is also good at finding alternative places for her children to perform within the community. They have been performers at DePaul University, the Biograph Theater, Little Sisters of the Poor, and at various area festivals. In Melissa Hooker, CPS has a powerful advocate for music education.

- **Michelle Mangold**
1st and 2d grades
Dryden Elementary School
722 S. Dryden Pl., **Arlington Heights**
847-398-4280

Michelle Mangold's 23 bilingual children speak 12 different languages, including Polish, Japanese, Thai, Korean, French, Greek, Mandarin and Chinese-Cantonese, Bulgarian, Romanian, and Spanish. Her students describe her as their personal cheerleader. She pushes them to do their best in writing, become strong readers and show good character. She attends their outside figure-skating shows, soccer practices, and language events. Michelle teaches her students to use self-efficacy as their motto — “I think I can work hard and smart!” “We can become good readers if we read more.” “I choose the way I feel and the actions I do.” Michelle makes school a magical place, where books become reality, worries melt away, and every creative idea is one to be celebrated. She also keeps in contact with former students from Japan via Skype, an online web-cam broadcast system. When they came to America, her students spoke no English and were very afraid. They now are fluently bilingual and attribute their success to Michelle Mangold.

- **Gloria Moyer**
Pre-K to 3d grade
Otis Elementary
525 N. Armour, **Chicago**
773-534-7665

Gloria Moyer lives out her school's motto of “meeting the needs of each student.” She teaches reading and writing to visually impaired children. Within her classroom, the range of special needs include students from low visual acuity, to legally blind, to total blindness. Multiple other challenges appear in half of the students, such as orientation and mobility, speech and language. Her students travel from the Near North, West, and central areas of Chicago to participate in the program. As her students enter with white canes, they tap their way to their bins to get their folders, Braille books and other materials, while chatting and getting settled for rigorous learning. She thinks of her students as a true family of learners who support and respect each other, and not as a group of special-needs children. Many of Gloria Moyer's students can not see her smiles, nods, or serious looks, but they feel them through her consistent, caring nature and listening skills that extend to and become the classroom atmosphere and environment. The one round teaching table in the classroom is much like the center of the universe for the children because Ms. Moyer helps them to see and discuss things such as the color of a marshmallow. There may not be a better advocate for visually impaired students than Gloria Moyer.

- **Jennifer Phares**
1st grade
Bright Elementary
10740 S. Calhoun Ave., **Chicago**
773-535-6215

Jennifer Phares models professional inquiry and sets the tone for her school building. She made the deliberate choice to become a teacher where the need is greatest, in a very high-poverty school. In her own words: “This was the demographic I wanted. I wanted to teach children who needed good teachers to level the playing field. This is my calling. Her first-grade classroom is representative of the school and includes autistic, Limited English Learners, and a mix of African-American and Latino children. Ms. Phares’ classroom is a very print-rich space with bins of books, classroom-produced posters, word walls, and examples of the children’s journals. It is a place that celebrates the written word. Her wish is to read President Barak Obama’s memoirs to her students so they can make connections from his life to their own lives. She wants her students to know what it means to have good character.

- **Kristin O’Rourke Salamanca**
Kindergarten through 5th grade
Red Oak Elementary
530 Red Oak Lane, **Highland Park**
847-831-4570

From the outside, Kristin O’Rourke Salamanca’s class resembles a lively circus, yet a closer look reveals the carefully planned series of interventions or activities targeting student growth. All instruction is in Spanish for the 19 native Spanish-speaking students and children of other backgrounds. Kristin also teaches an afternoon English as a Second Language and bilingual-support class, with 17 students who are Spanish, Polish, and Russian-speaking. All members of the school community marvel that no matter what hardships Ms. Salamanca endures, she always has something of herself to give to someone else. She wrote grants for the “Reading under the Stars” program and initiated the school’s “Book-in-the Bag” program. Parents with limited-language skills meet once a month with her to get help with reading literacy. Ms. Salamanca also translates all of the school’s materials and books into Spanish for all grade levels. She wants to continue to work on creating more materials for dual-language students. Sadly, it is a huge challenge to find some early readers texts where there are multiple words on the page for ELL students. But those limitations do not deter this gifted teacher. There are no roadblocks or personal issues that can get in Kristin Salamanca’s way!

- **Peter Schreurs**
1st grade
Sprague School
2425 Riverwoods Rd., **Lincolnshire**
847-945-6665

The 19 students in Peter Schreurs' first-grade classroom represent a diverse continuum of learning. His classroom is rich with culture. His students speak English, Chinese, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Spanish. On the first day of school, Peter always asks his students, "Who's in charge of your learning?" They all know that this question opens the door to a world of personal responsibilities for learning. Peter's goal is to differentiate instruction so that ideas and learning experiences are engaging and appropriate for all learners. In his early childhood classroom, Peter nurtures like a parent — visuals are all around, the conversation flows freely, the love of nature and the discoveries that observant child scientists make are celebrated, and hands-on experiences are shared with one buddy's hands gently guiding another's. Peter is very proud of the diabetes curriculum programs he helped write for Native American students. Peter serves as an example of how high expectation and personal engagement bring success and confidence to young students. They see in Peter a strong and empathetic male role model.

- **David Sobel**
Kindergarten and grades 2-6
Hunting Ridge Elementary
1105 W. Illinois Ave., **Palatine**
847-963-5300

Every day of the week is unique for David Sobel's physical education classes. Themes that echo at Hunting Ridge regarding David are distinguished teacher, role model and mentor, passion for the profession, the heart of the school. David was raised in a family of teachers and spent much of his youth as a leader in a family-run camp. He loved being a role model for children and thought that some day the camp life would be his path. Being with and helping children were strong catalysts in shaping his career path. David's class sizes range from 22 wide-eyed, energetic kindergarteners, to 26 enthusiastic second-graders, to 39 excited third-graders including special-needs children. David believes that in physical education, some things come easy and natural for students and others are as difficult as math. He asks his students to display a good attitude about physical exercise and give their best effort. Above the door of the gym, David has a sign that reads – "*Play together and leave as friends.*" Once a week on Friday morning, David has students in the gym for intramural time. He plays music and participates with his students in a game of dodge ball. David uses video-photography to document what the students are doing in class, in intramurals, and in special activities. He has combined a love of teaching and photography into a perfect complimentary package that inspires the students and community.

2009 Golden Apple Teachers of Distinction

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enid Alvarez 2nd grade dual language Lincoln School 2140 W. Broadway, Blue Island 708-385-5370 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Bennett 1st grade Liberty Elementary 6500 Miller Rd., Carpentersville 847-851-8300
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christine Beukema Primary Autism Finkl Academy 2332 S. Western Ave., Chicago 773-895-5850 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel Binole Kindergarten Grand Prairie School 10480 W. Nebraska, Frankfort 815-469-3366
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara Cataldo 1st grade Siple Elementary 2806 W. 83rd St., Woodridge 630-985-0064 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pamela Ciway 3rd grade White Elementary 800 N. Prairie St., Batavia 630-937-8000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Costas 1st grade Jose de Diego 1313 N. Claremont, Chicago 773-534-4451 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Covington 3rd grade St. Leonard School 3322 S. Clarence Ave., Berwyn 708-749-3666
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deborah Graziano 2nd grade Carpenter Elementary 300 N Hamlin Ave., Park Ridge 847-318-4370 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristin Kaczmarek 1st grade Grove School 1000 Pflingsten Rd., Northbrook 847-272-1934
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott Naber 2d grade Longfellow School 715 S. Highland, Oak Park 708-524-3060 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Navarro 2nd grade Pulaski Fine Arts Academy 2230 W. McLean, Chicago 773-534-4390
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colin Reynolds 1st grade Mann Elementary 921 N. Kenilworth, Oak Park 708-524-3085 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaime Shanahan 3rd grade Sanborn School 101 N. Oak St., Palatine 847-963-7036

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gail Sherwood 3rd grade Edgebrook School 6525 N. Hiawatha Ave., Chicago 773-534-1194	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sabrina Silverstein Pre-K Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez Elementary 3000 S. Lawndale Ave., Chicago 773-534-1600
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Megan Whitney Pre-K Audubon Elementary 3500 N. Hoyne, Chicago 773-534-5470	