



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nominations currently being accepted  
for 2010 Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching  
Chicago-area high school teachers honored in 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of prestigious awards program

CHICAGO (September 29, 2009) – On the heels of last Friday's celebration honoring the 2009 winners of the Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching, Golden Apple is pleased to announce that nominations are open for the 2010 Awards, which mark the 25<sup>th</sup> year since the program's inception.

The brainchild of Golden Apple founder Martin J. (Mike) Koldyke, the Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching aim to recognize and honor outstanding teachers for their contributions to building a stronger, better-educated society.

Every year since 1986, Golden Apple has chosen 10 outstanding teachers to receive this prestigious award. These teachers become lifetime members of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators, which conceives, develops and supports programs for teachers to make them more effective in the classroom.

Administrators, teachers, counselors, parents and students are invited to nominate outstanding teachers currently teaching full-time in grades 9 through 12 at a public or non-public school in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and Will counties.

Winners receive a paid sabbatical to study tuition-free at Northwestern University, a \$3,000 cash award, recognition on a WTTW/11 one-hour television program, and induction into the esteemed Golden Apple Academy of Educators.

Nominations can be made online at [www.goldenapple.org](http://www.goldenapple.org) or via mail by downloading the form from the website and mailing it in to the address provided on the form.

Nominations close December 31, 2009. To learn more about the program, please visit [www.goldenapple.org](http://www.goldenapple.org).

#### About Golden Apple

Golden Apple began in 1985 with founders Mike and Pat Koldyke and a shared inspiration — to offer outstanding school teachers the level of recognition enjoyed by actors at the Academy Awards. Golden Apple's successful track record now spans more than 20 years. Integrated, innovative Golden Apple programs and resources enhance the quality, resiliency, and creativity of classroom teachers and improve teaching and learning throughout Illinois. Qualified, passionate educators — including Golden Apple Award-winners and finalists — lead a small staff of dedicated employees with functional and program expertise. A connected and committed board of directors oversees Golden Apple's strategic direction. Together with a larger community of expert educators, the not-for-profit organization works to ensure that all Illinois children have the excellent teachers they deserve.

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