



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2010 Golden Apple Teachers of Distinction Named

CHICAGO (May 19, 2010) – [Golden Apple](#), a leader in advancing the teaching profession in Illinois for 25 years, is pleased to announce the 2010 Teachers of Distinction, 20 Golden Apple Award finalists whose superior teaching work was noted by the selection committee. (The complete list of 2010 Teachers of Distinction can be found at the end of this release.)

Teachers of Distinction are recognized for their distinguished contribution to teaching and are asked to participate in Golden Apple programs.

The honorees, all high school teachers, were selected from a pool of 562 nominees. Golden Apple has recognized outstanding Chicago-area educators annually since 1986. The creation of Golden Apple founders Mike and Pat Koldyke, the Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching recognize and honor outstanding teachers for their contributions to building a stronger, better-educated citizenry.

“The 20 outstanding educators we’re honoring as Teachers of Distinction this year all exemplify excellence in classroom leadership. We look forward to their contributions to the mission and programs of Golden Apple,” said Golden Apple President and CEO Dominic Belmonte.

About Golden Apple

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, Golden Apple began with founders Mike and Pat Koldyke and a shared inspiration — to offer outstanding schoolteachers a level of recognition and engagement in the larger work of education reform. Golden Apple’s successful track record of integrated, innovative 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, this nonprofit organization works to ensure that all Illinois children have the excellent teachers they deserve. Visit www.goldenapple.org for more information.

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For more information, contact:

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2010 Teachers of Distinction:

Mike DiMatteo
Hinsdale Central High School
Hinsdale

Christopher Esposito
Downers Grove South High School
Downers Grove

Emily Feltes-Maslanka
Farragut Career Academy
Chicago

Marilyn Gilbert-Mitchell
Percy L. Julian High School
Chicago

John Gonczy
Mount Carmel High School
Chicago

Michael Heinz
Niles West High School
Skokie

Roz Iasillo
Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School
Chicago

Paul Karafiol
Walter Payton College Prep H.S.
Chicago

Luis Navarro
Richard T. Crane Tech Prep Common H.S
Chicago

Leo Park
Northside College Preparatory High School
Chicago

Michael Pond
Lindblom Math & Science Academy
Chicago

Ryan Rockaitis
Deerfield High School
Deerfield

Kelli Rushek
TEAM Englewood Community Academy
Chicago

Yolanda Sanchez
Benito Juarez Academy
Chicago

Frederick Schill
The Chicago Academy for the Arts
Chicago

Jennifer Trejo
William Howard Taft High School
Chicago

Darren Tuggle
Kelvyn Park High School
Chicago

Dr. Mark Vondracek
Evanston Township High School
Evanston

Jeanne Walker
Orr Academy High School
Chicago

Jeffrey Yordy
Glenbrook South High School
Glenview