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### What's New on

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Congratulations to the 18 Golden Apple teachers who earned National Board Certification in December 2010.

### January Free Resource

1992 Golden Apple Award Fellow Renee Dolezal, PhD offers time- and space-saving tips on Classroom Management before the first day of school. [Free Resources from Fellows >](#)

### iTEAM Chicago

Golden Apple's Inquiry Science Institute helped inspire knowledge sharing

### Donor Profile: Nancy Northrip

A 12-year member of the Golden Apple Board of Directors, Nancy Northrip has a long personal and financial commitment to Golden Apple. In 2009, she and her husband, Robert, made a significant new pledge: to sponsor a Golden Apple Scholar for four years. They have since forged a rewarding connection with Scholar Katelin Johnson.



"Our Scholar's story had an emotional connection for us," Nancy said. "My husband and I are graduates of Illinois State University. I have a major in early childhood special education. Katelin is a special education major at Illinois State. She herself has cerebral palsy."

Each year, Golden Apple welcomes a class of more than 100 Scholars—talented, motivated future teachers committed to serving high-need schools in Illinois. State tuition assistance helps Scholars complete their undergraduate educations. Advanced preparation and mentoring from Golden Apple helps Scholars become extraordinary teachers, at a cost of approximately \$30,000 over four years.

"The Scholars are the future of education," Nancy said. "With Golden Apple's mentorship and support programs, they will be the best teachers there are."

The Northrips met Katelin at Golden Apple's 2009 Awards ceremony at WTTW studios and have been in touch since—going out to lunch and exchanging emails and phone calls. A 2007 Pathway Scholar, Katelin joined the program as a sophomore at Illinois State and is already student teaching in special education.

"Her courage is so moving, to be the one to get in front of the classroom with her difficulties and lead these kids," Nancy said.

between teachers, as well as active learning by students, at Chicago's Durkin Park Elementary School. Visit the [iTEAM blog](#) for more information.

Congratulations to iTEAM teachers who recently earned National Board Certification. Visit [iTEAM on Facebook](#).

Katelin describes the Northrips as "amazing" and "genuine." "I really got a chance to connect with them, not only on an educational level, but also a personal level."

Active philanthropists, the Northrips own Ultimate Gymnastics, in Gurnee, and are corporate sponsors of the Illinois Chapter of Make-A-Wish Foundation. Golden Apple is grateful to Nancy for her continued Board service and to both Nancy and Rob for their significant financial support.

For more information on Scholar sponsorship opportunities, email Lil Levant, [levant@goldenapple.org](mailto:levant@goldenapple.org).

## Golden Apple Teachers Become NBCTs

In December 2010, 18 Golden Apple teachers earned National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. These Fellows, Scholars, Teachers of Distinction, and graduates of Golden Apple's alternative certification (GATE) program completed a rigorous application and assessment process to earn Board Certification, including portfolio submissions with video recordings of their classroom performance.

Applicants must demonstrate strong content knowledge in one of 25 areas of subject and grade-level teaching expertise in addition to instructional excellence. To date, 108 Golden Apple teachers have earned National Board Certification: 35 Fellows, 30 Scholars, 30 GATE participants, and 13 Teachers of Distinction. Congratulations to all of these outstanding, motivated NBCTs.

### ***Kimeon Cruikshank, 2000 Scholar***

New NBCT Kimeon Cruikshank, a 2000 Scholar teaching in Harvey School District 152, earned her National Board Certification in Early Childhood education. She also holds a master's degree in the subject and viewed the certification process as part of her ongoing journey toward becoming the best possible teacher.

"Going through the Scholars program, we see what a great teacher looks like in the Golden Apple Fellows that teach us during the Institutes. We have those examples. That was my goal, to become a good teacher on that level," she said. "One of the ways you become that is through professional development and reflection, through processes like the National Board Certification."

Kimeon described the experience as very beneficial.

"People have this perspective of what they think they look like when they teach...watching video of yourself is a wake-up call,"

she said. "The process is very reflective. It forces you into really intentional thinking. Why are you using the methods that you use? What is the actual aim of your instruction?"

***Darshan Jain, 2010 Fellow***

Darshan Jain earned his National Board Certification in Mathematics/Adolescence and Young Adulthood the same year he won a Golden Apple Award. He would recommend the certification process for every teacher.



"The video submission gave me insights into how students responded to the teaching. Some of it was affirming and some provided clarity towards areas where I can grow," he said. "Having to support and justify your teaching opens your eyes to whether you are actually doing what you think you are doing."

He advises teachers undertaking the process to budget their time, set deadlines, and connect with colleagues who are also pursuing certification. Many districts have programs that connect cohorts of teachers.

"The level of reflection needed is very intense, but rewarding," he said. "Don't do it in isolation."

**Scholar Selection in Full Swing**

Golden Apple and a host of committed volunteers are in the process of interviewing candidates for the 2011 Scholar class. More than 1,612 young people were nominated for the program, and approximately 250-300 applicants will be interviewed. Fifty Fellows, Teaching



Scholars, and Teachers of Distinction are conducting Scholar interviews, and 45 collegiate Scholars are dedicating their time to the process, meeting and greeting applicants, providing an overview of the program to parents, staffing the registration table, and timing interviews.

Interviews take place at the Golden Apple offices January 15th and 22nd and in Springfield, Illinois January 29th. Scholarship funding is available for approximately 100 new Scholars. Golden Apple will announce those selected in March.

**Award Nominations Top 600**

Golden Apple received **more than 600 nominations** for the 2011 Golden Apple Awards, which focus this year on teachers of students in grades 4 – 8. (Nominees must also be full-time classroom teachers at public or non-public schools in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lane, or Will counties in Illinois.) Nominated teachers are in the process of completing and returning applications for Award consideration.

Golden Apple's Selection Committee will choose 10 Award recipients in May after a multi-step evaluation process that includes classroom observation for the semi-finalists and finalists. Criteria reflect the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards, Five Core Propositions of the NBPTS, and the Charlotte Danielson framework for distinguished teaching practice.

### Teaching Scholar Recognized for Service

Teaching Scholar Carrie Lynn Hennessy earned the Greater Chicago Food Depository's Irving Nathan Award, the highest honor given to a volunteer, at the organization's November volunteer banquet. Carrie volunteers every Wednesday at Chicago's food bank, leads other volunteers, serves on the Hunger Walk Committee, and supports many special events. She helped initiate Golden Apple Associates Board Volunteer Days at GCFD, most recently in October. In May, she spent part of her 30th birthday



volunteering, and her July 4th holiday included rescuing unused food from the Taste of Chicago for the Food Depository's use.

Now in her 8th year of teaching at Roosevelt Middle School, in Bellwood, Illinois, Carrie also completed her master's degree in Curriculum Instruction, with an endorsement in ESL, in 2010.

"Many of my own students benefit from the food distributed by GCFD, which makes volunteering at GCFD that much more special to me," Carrie noted.

Congratulations to Carrie for her service and teaching accomplishments.

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