

2012 Governor's Educator Recognition Program Hamilton Township Public Schools

December 2011

Dear Colleagues,

It is time to submit nominations for the **2012 Governor's Teacher of the Year/Educational Service Professional of the Year** recognition award. These programs are designed to recognize excellence in our district's educators and educational service professionals. The criteria for the selection of teachers and educational service professionals can be found on the pages that follow.

In addition to the Governor's Recognition Program, **our district would like to recognize its paraprofessionals**. Although this recognition is only within our district and not on a state level, let us take a moment to also recognize these professionals for the wonderful job they do every day in our schools.

Each and every one of us has the responsibility to participate by submitting for nomination the name of one of our colleagues in any one of these categories. This is our way of celebrating the excellence among our ranks and publicly acknowledging our outstanding coworkers.

A panel consisting of district administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, parents, and members of the community will review all nominations. One teacher or educational service professional from each school building will be selected as the Teacher or Educational Service Professional of the Year for that school. In addition, the panel will also choose one paraprofessional from each building as Paraprofessional of the Year. Sealed nominations will be brought before the nine-member Selection Panel. Results will be announced in February. Thank you very much for your role in this worthwhile project!

Respectfully,

Kathleen Marandino and Dawn Smith
Chairs, Teacher Recognition Committee

Return sealed nominations along with any additional information by December 19, 2011 to:
Kathleen Marandino, Chair Educator Recognition Committee
c/o William Davies Middle School
1876 Dr. Dennis Foreman Drive
Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Please nominate either a Teacher or Educational Service Professional (not both) for the 2012 Governor's -Recognition Program and one paraprofessional for the district. Forms are included.

***Criteria for the selection of *Teachers/ESP's*:**

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Teachers selected by the panel must have distinguished themselves during the previous school year through exceptional contributions in the following areas:

THE TEACHER CANDIDATE MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- **The title of School Teacher of the Year can only be awarded to individuals that have not earned this title within the past five (5) years.**
- **Retiring teachers may not be nominated as candidates must remain active in the profession during the following school year.**
- Be a licensed, highly-qualified (if applicable) classroom teacher (pre-K through grade 12) in a public or charter school;
- Have teaching as the primary responsibility rather than administrative or supervisory responsibilities;
- Be a dedicated and skilled teacher leader who is **planning to actively continue his/her teaching career**;
- Demonstrate strong ability to foster excellence in education as evidenced by ongoing contributions to the improvement of student learning and the learning environment;
- Possess strong content area expertise and be able to deliver content in a meaningful and engaging manner that is age appropriate;
- Incorporate innovative instructional materials, curriculum or strategies, such as interdisciplinary instruction, project-based learning, research-based programs, or technology to support and enhance instruction;
- **Demonstrate leadership** in educational activities at the school, district, and/or state and national level that take place both within or out of the school setting;
- Show evidence of ongoing professional learning through completion of specific training and/or advanced degrees;
- Display exemplary interpersonal skills in communicating with students, parents, administrators, community members and professional colleagues;
- Participate in peer coaching and mentoring activities;
- Utilize research techniques in the classroom to improve the teaching and learning process;
- Engage parents/families as partners in the learning process to enhance student achievement;
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to creating a climate of caring and respect conducive to effective teaching and learning; and
- Demonstrate poise, eloquence and the ability to maintain a demanding schedule.

***Criteria for the selection of *Educational Service Professionals*:**

Educational Service Professionals:

Associate School Library Media Specialist	School Athletic Trainer
Director of School Counseling Services	School Counselor
School Library Media Specialist	Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant
Reading Specialist	School Nurse (Instructional and Non-instructional)
School Occupational Therapist	School Physical Therapist
School Psychologist	School Social Worker
Speech-Language Specialist	Substance Awareness Coordinator
Cooperative Education Coordinator/Hazardous Occupations	County Apprenticeship Coordinator
Cooperative Education Coordinator	
Educational Interpreter (Sign Language Interpreting, Oral Interpreting, and Cued Speech Transliteration)	

Educational Service Professionals selected by the panel must have distinguished themselves during the previous school year through exceptional contributions in the following areas:

- Hold an educational services professional certificate;
- Interact positively with students, staff, and parents while functioning as a frontline advocate for the student between home and school;
- Foster an appropriate environment for learning and explore creative alternatives to enable all students to achieve to their fullest potential;
- Support student achievement of the NJCCCS by addressing the educational, social, and emotional needs of all students;
- Contribute to quality professional development in their district; and
- Interact with students in ways that demonstrate professionalism while retaining respect, humor, compassion and concern for the whole child.

***Criteria for the selection of Paraprofessionals:**

“Paraprofessionals work alongside, support and expand the programmatic and administrative duties of teachers and other professional practioners.” *Anna Lou Pickett*

Paraprofessionals selected by the panel must have distinguished themselves during the previous school year through exceptional contributions in the following areas:

- Hold a paraprofessional certificate;
- Assists teacher in supervising the behavior of student(s) in the classroom/assigned areas.
- Under the direction of the teacher, assists individual students and works with small groups of students in need of instructional-reinforcement.
- Communicates effectively with students and adults.
- Enjoys working with students.
- Works as a dedicated team member.
- Demonstrates flexibility as it relates to clerical functions in the classroom, conducting skill reviews, reinforces classroom procedures, guidelines, and expectations which are established by the teacher.
- Participates in ongoing training and staff development activities.

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