



The Delaware County Excellence in Teaching Award

The **Delaware County Excellence in Teaching Award** recognizes outstanding and dedicated teachers in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union created this award in 2008 in partnership with Delaware County Intermediate Unit. *The Daily Times* provides publicity for the award.

Recipients demonstrate outstanding dedication and significant contributions to Delaware County students. The selection committee chose teachers from nominations submitted by the general public.

Teachers receive \$500 and a commemorative keepsake. The recipient's school also receives a \$1000 award.

Categories:

- One public school teacher from each of the 15 public school districts located within Delaware County
- One teacher from the Delaware County Intermediate Unit
- One teacher from a Delaware County non-public elementary, middle, and one high school (total of three).

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Excellence in Teaching Award**



KIMBERLEY BLAGMON / Penn Wood High School / William Penn School District
Nominated by Student

“Kimberley possesses numerous leadership abilities and teaches everyday by word and by deed. She teaches her students life lessons and knowledge that can only be passed down by a person with wisdom and intelligence. She teaches because she cares and it shows as she is always making sure her students are getting the work in spite of how they treat her. Heather shows compassion and is very funny at the same time.

Kimberley embodies the definition of an excellent teacher by being a motivator for her students. She is a motivator; making learning interesting and fun. Kimberley is an inspiration in her students’ lives well beyond the classroom and textbooks.”

JANET CENAME / Grace Park Elementary / Ridley School District
Nominated by Parents

“Mrs. Cename has proved for over 25 years on a daily basis her outstanding performance as a teacher at Grace Park Elementary. She dedicates her life to the betterment of children. She adds her life’s lessons to her teachings, giving the kids the perspective of life in the real world. She attends community events with a smile on her face, and is always pleasant with parents and students.

Not only does she teach her students, but she enlightens parents as well. Her gift of listening and inspiration gives them a sense of worth, which gives them the confidence to express themselves more freely. She explores with the children and teaches them to learn through their mistakes. Janet interacts with our Grace Park family not only during the school day, but also in our community, giving her a better understanding of her job and her students.”



DENISE CHAMOUN / Russell Elementary School / Marple Newtown School District
Nominated by Administrator

“Denise is a veteran teacher at Russell Elementary who has a well-deserved reputation for excellence. She is known as someone who remains refreshingly open to new ideas and seeks out ways to continually improve her practice.

Denise’s teaching is child-centered and exciting and is delivered with enthusiasm and creativity. She is in the same league as Mr. Rogers and Sesame Street, but she does it all herself, without writers, producers, and a huge budget, just a love for the kids, a special talent for teaching, and a commitment to hard work.

Denise talks to her students in ways that interest and intrigue them, and as a result, they learn. When a student needs understanding, encouragement, extra help, or just different instruction, she knows that and provides what they need.”



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TOM COOK / Cardinal O'Hara High School / Archdiocesan High School
Nominated by Colleague

"Tom is highly respected by his students, the administration and colleagues at Cardinal O'Hara. He has developed and teaches a professional level Media Production course, which is the only one of its kind within the Archdiocesan system. Some of the course content includes the development of movies, graphics, and 3D animation.

Tom is a very creative, dynamic, caring teacher who demands the best from his students. His classes, Web Design, Media Production, and Marketing, are always popular because he makes learning interesting. His teaching methods foster a learning environment that allows for individual learning styles. His students complete his courses with confidence in their ability to succeed. The class also produces Public Service announcements for broadcast television. On the day of service he takes students to Philadelphia to refurbish classrooms in the public schools, and he also does work with AmeriCorps."

AMY JO COOPER / Ithan Elementary School / Radnor Township School District
Nominated by Administrator

"Amy Jo Cooper has worked at Ithan Elementary and Radnor Elementary teaching mathematics. Over the years, Amy Jo has been instrumental in developing resources and providing support for teachers. She has developed a binder for each classroom teacher, which provides instruction and support for using games and manipulatives in the classroom, as well as the use of e-planner.

Amy Jo's lessons in the classroom demonstrate constructive teaching and best practices. She is also involved with the school's student assistant program, data team, and the social skills committee. She has developed consistent procedures and time lines for the administration of assessments, and for identifying students who require enrichment or remedial programming. Amy Jo has proved herself to be a caring and exceptional educator. Amy Jo instills confidence and a desire to learn for all her students."



JUSTINE FULGINITI / Linwood Elementary School / Chichester School District
Nominated by Parent

"Justine has taught Kindergarten at Linwood Elementary School in the Chichester school district since 1992. Justine is a person who truly believes that all children can achieve and is adamant about making sure children enjoy their initial school experience. Justine accomplishes this by using music and chants throughout her teaching day. Her students are truly a community of learners in her classroom, encouraging, and cheering for each other's accomplishments.

Justine dedicates her time and energy to the children in her school, not just her class. Students are a community of learners in her classroom and cheer for each other's accomplishments quite regularly using such cheers as "firecracker," "truck driver," and "Elvis." When it came time for the district to begin a full day kindergarten program, Justine was instrumental in creating the curriculum that merged learning with fun. She is a caring, enthusiastic, professional teacher who is the perfect mix of mom, counselor, educator, and colleague."

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DIANE GIORDANO / Annunciation B.V.M. / Archdiocesan Middle School
Nominated by Student

“Diane is always laughing and smiling as she makes math fun at Annunciation B.V.M. She goes well beyond teaching what is in the books, as she teaches her students how to be better people. She is sweet, caring, and dedicated to her students and her personality is reflected in the way she teaches and in her students.

Diane also took over our school’s MATHcounts team a few years ago and is the teacher moderator for the school’s Future City team. She empathizes teamwork and helps the team to strengthen their math skills. She has helped them to achieve gold level status. She truly cares about each and every one of her students and pushes them to their full potential. She always sets a good example in the way she treats others. Diane is not only a teacher but a mentor and a role model for her students at Annunciation.”

SARAH HEPPLER / Sharon Hill School / Southeast Delco School District
Nominated by Administrator

“The respect between Sarah and her students create a very positive atmosphere for learning. One of her strong points is that she connects with each of her students individually, and this along with her personality, allows students to share their views with her so that she can successfully evaluate their progress.

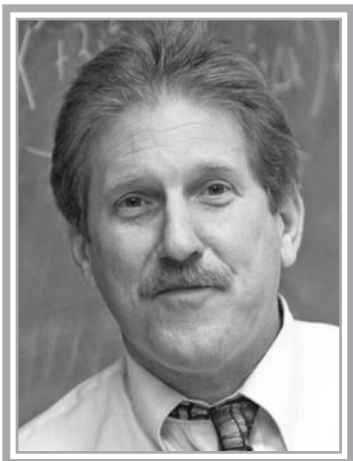
She is very proficient when it comes to incorporating technology and has been asked on more than one occasion to conduct professional developments in the areas of technology and math. She is a major part of the school’s leadership team and plays a major role in the decision making. Her passion and dedication to her students inspires me each time I am in her classroom. She is very committed and continues to exhibit a superior level of teaching.”



DAVID HINE / Interboro High School / Interboro School District
Nominated by Student

“David is one of the most genuine individuals you will find at Interboro High School, possessing an uncanny ability to explain the world of mathematics to others. He is a shining example of one of the few fortunate people who really love their job. David is always concerned for the well being of everyone he knows.

David is an honest, heartwarming educator who is dedicated and willing to help others, explaining every problem’s significance and thoroughly answering every student’s questions. If David is not reviewing material in the front, he is bent over a student’s shoulder, carefully walking him or her through a problem. When academic lessons and mnemonic devices fail, David resorts to his trusty quirky movements and symbols, which always triumph. David takes the time to talk about his students’ future plans. David also is involved with Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, supporting his students as they work through mathematical analysis of real world issues.”



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MOLLY KLEIN / Pennell Elementary School / Penn-Delco School District
Nominated by Colleagues

“Molly Klein has taught Kindergarten through 6th grade in the Penn-Delco School District for 35 years, and was one of the original Instructional Support Team Teachers in the district. Her willingness to share and collaborate has transformed Pennell Elementary to a magical place.

Molly’s philosophy is that parents are partners in the educational process and this is essential to help each child meet with success. She has an open door policy where parents are always welcome and makes sure they are well aware of the Kindergarten curriculum. Molly embraces technology with the Kindergartners in her class by teaching them how to blog and SKYPE. Her Kindergartners have skyped with parents and have taken a virtual field trip to a national aquarium.

Molly spends endless hours before and after school in her classroom, working with the Penn-Delco Education Association as its Elementary Vice President, being an organizer for The Delaware County Celebration of Education, and Penn-Delco’s Read Across America Night. She also serves as a member of the IPD Committee.”

JOANNE MALLON / Delaware County Intermediate Unit Early Intervention
Nominated by Parent

“Joanne makes a difference in the lives of each and every child that passes through the doors of her classroom at the DCIU’s Early Intervention Center. Joanne isn’t just a teacher; she’s a role model, a support system, and a friend to many parents and students. Her classroom is evidence of the “golden rule” as she cares for each student as if they were one of her own.

Joanne is a cheerleader for her students, always encouraging them when they are down and supporting them whenever things get a little rough. She always has a smile on her face and laughter in her heart all day long. Students, parents, and her colleagues all appreciate what she has done and continues to do each and every day. Leading and empowering parents always seem to miss her daily presence in their children’s lives once their student has moved on. Joanne loves each and every child as if they are her own.”



LISA MANGINI / Toby Farms Elementary School / Chester Upland School District
Nominated by Parent

“Lisa Mangini has been a teacher at Toby Farms Elementary for the past five years. Meeting her for the first time immediately gives you the impression that she is someone that truly cares about her students. She builds very positive relationships, while maintaining a level of mutual respect with her students. Lisa makes learning very enjoyable with her sense of humor, encouraging demeanor, and openness with her students. Lisa’s class is a positive environment full of friendly exchanges between her and the students.

Lisa is known for her relationship and communication with parents and students. She has helped children become very confident in learning and with everyday battles. Students and parents routinely request to be placed in Lisa’s class year after year. She will often request to have the most challenging students because she knows and recognizes their social, emotional, and cultural interests and will differentiate accordingly and seek ways to positively impact their lives. Lisa is a team player who willingly shares and collaborates with her colleagues and always demonstrates a commitment to the school goals, programs, and school activities.”

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BRENDA MILLETTE / Media Elementary School / Rose Tree Media School District
Nominated by Parent

"In a school of wonderful teachers, Brenda stands out as someone who consistently goes beyond normal expectations to give her students more than a basic education. She helps students instill great pride with writing because they know that someone finds their words important. When it snows and other classes stay inside, her class is the one outside, documenting the depth, temperature, and consistency of the snow.

Brenda is a hands-on teacher with lessons consisting of small groups working collaboratively with a variety of materials to gain understanding of cause and effect and how things work. Once a child has been a student in Ms. Millette's class, they will forever be her student."

SHARON REED / Haverford High School / Haverford Township School District
Nominated by Colleagues, Parents, and Students

"Sharon came to Haverford High School with a varied teaching experience having taught middle school, high school, and college. She employs a multitude of strategies, techniques, and activities and offers her students the opportunity for success in learning. Sharon always encourages her students to pursue the Spanish language. Sharon is a wonderful model for her students of the finest personal values and qualities: competent, industrious, fair, cheerful, patient, open minded, and respectful. The students and staff of Haverford High School hold her in high regard.

She has taught all levels and courses with equal dedication and enthusiasm, giving her the tools to influence almost any type of learner. Sharon has a wealth of cultural experience, which she brings to the classroom to compliment the development of the four language skills. She even goes as far as taking her students to Spain to experience the culture and language they study. Sharon is also a board member of the local chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. She has been a class advisor, test center supervisor for SAT and PSAT testing, and plays the clarinet in the Marple Newtown Community Band."



MIKE RICCI / Garnet Valley High School / Garnet Valley School District
Nominated by Parent

"Mike is not only an English teacher and a football coach, but also an advocate for the students at Garnet Valley High School. Mike is extremely dedicated to the success of all of his students. He is a very engaging teacher and encourages and motivates his students to take an active role in their learning. He teaches with his mind and his heart, which gives his students a better sense of self confidence, and helps them to know their strengths and to learn through them. Mike also runs the Strive program at Garnet Valley High School where he challenges kids in the lower tier of their class to "push" themselves to be all they can be. At the conclusion of the year, the local Rotary club recognizes the student with the greatest improvement.

Mike stresses the importance of having good character, being selfless, working hard, and teamwork to his students as well as his players. He leads by example and demonstrates these characteristics in his classroom, on the football field, and in the community. He is well known and well respected in the Garnet Valley community, and recognized in the county for his ability to inspire students and instill pride in the community."

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HEATHER RUSH / Beverly Hills Middle School / Upper Darby School District
Nominated by Administrator

“Heather stands out for her demonstrated ability to create a classroom of respect and high achievement. By devoting herself to the study of her students she is able to target those in need of tutoring and additional enrichment. To better aid her students, Heather conferences with children and parents regarding ways to bolster academic proficiency. She has created informational guides for families to use in an attempt to strengthen parents’ skills for home tutoring and homework assistance.

Students entering her class can count on learning in a safe environment with an expert practitioner. The value-added growth standard for her students exceeds state, district, and school level achievement data. Heather’s class is the best place to be if learning at high rates and creating a community where students care about their school is the desired outcome.”

ROBIN SAKOVICS / The Walden School / Private Elementary
Nominated by Administrator

“Students, parents and her colleagues at The Walden School can feel the positive impact of Robin’s performance as a teacher over the past twenty years. Among her many teaching talents is being able to facilitate the children’s ability to read and to write; she has helped to build a strong language arts foundation for her students. Robin’s knowledge of and appreciation for children’s literature has been contagious in creating a love for reading in young children.

Besides being a gifted first and second grade teacher, Robin has studied Montessori education; she has set up an environment that provides a smooth transition from a pure Montessori setting to one with more traditional components, and she has been a leader in creating the unique blend that is found in the elementary program. She also provides the role modeling of respect and kindness that is valued in a Montessori school whose message is peace through education. Robin is also the liaison between The Walden School and Pathways, a local women’s shelter, for a school service program that includes holiday outreach.”



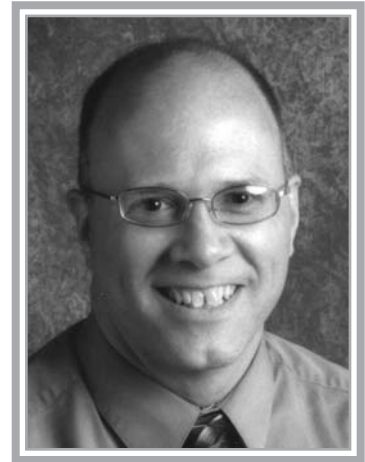
ROBERTA SHAPIRO / Strath Haven High School / Wallingford-Swarthmore School District
Nominated by Parent

“Since 1994, Roberta has been a social studies teacher at Strath Haven High School. She is a truly amazing teacher, developing activities that engage all of her students in exploring complex ideas and concepts, particularly in American history. Her students adore her, parents vie to get their children into her classes, the student teachers she supervises become outstanding teachers, and the college students for whom she occasionally does methods workshops know that they are working with a master teacher.

Roberta works with pre-service teachers as a cooperating teacher and a workshop leader. Roberta also works with her colleagues, developing curriculum with her social studies department and helping to coordinate professional development activities for her high school. She is very well respected among her colleagues, who recognize her commitment to students, to them, and to the school district.”

GEORGE TROUT / Springfield High School / Springfield School District
Nominated by Student and Friend

“Trout’ as parents and students refer to him, lives for his students, hasn’t missed a day of education in 24 years. and lives by his personal motto of ‘Pride and Respect’. He is an educator of high moral standards who not only teaches the assigned materials, but many stories of life. George takes his experience in woodworking and turns it into life-long lessons, may it be from problem solving to creative thinking. Everything he teaches he makes sure you can use elsewhere. George guides his students in the right direction, asking them what should be done or how they would do it, learning along with his students. No project presented has ever been turned down. The extremes of these projects range from a crucifix with a hand carved Jesus figure to a 1919 Ford Depot Hack with approximately 400 hours of woodworking to refinish the body to standards that have awarded the owners multiple prizes. George motivates his students to do the best work possible. He leads and inspires by example and action and it shows through the outstanding work of his students.”



2010 Financial Literacy Advocate

Each year, Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union recognizes an educator for his or her work to promote financial literacy.



John Casertano

John Casertano has taught career and business courses at Ridley High School since 1997. As a teacher, John has weaved financial literacy lessons into his everyday teaching. Nine years ago, he was one of the first educators to partner with FMFCU to bring the Partners in Learning program to his classroom. John’s enthusiasm for financial literacy helped to grow the program throughout the Ridley School District. FMFCU now partners with elementary and middle schools in the district.

John has done a tremendous job sharing his knowledge from the business world with his students. Prior to teaching, John was president and co-owner of CP’s Cinnfully Deliteful, a Franchisor and Bakery Business. His passion for teaching combined with practical business knowledge, makes John an outstanding advocate for financial literacy. John holds a B.S. in Business Administration from St. Joseph’s University and a Master’s in Education from Temple University. John has been married to his wife Jeannette for 34 years. They have two children, John and Jackie, and one grandson, John.

Past Recipients



2009
Joanne Goldsborough
Upper Darby High School



2008
Kathleen Claire
St. Gabriel Parish School



2007
Dr. Bridget Kelly
Springfield High School



2006
Peggy Wanger
Interboro High School