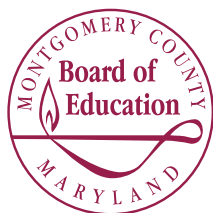


BOARD OF EDUCATION
TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL AWARDS
FOR

**Distinguished Service
to Public Education**

in Montgomery County



May 7, 2024
Program 6:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Welcome

Ms. Lynne Harris
Vice President, Board of Education

Program

Members of the Board of Education

Closing Remarks

Ms. Lynne Harris
Vice President, Board of Education

PURPOSE

The Montgomery County Board of Education established the Awards for Distinguished Service to Public Education in 1997 to recognize and show appreciation to individuals, groups, and organizations that have made exemplary contributions to public education in Montgomery County. This program is a celebration of all the award recipients who have dedicated their time and effort on behalf of public education and the children of Montgomery County.

2024 HONOREES

Community Individuals

Evelyn Chung

Farzad Makarehchi

Melissa Regan

Community Group

Chinese American Parent Association of Montgomery County

Business

CSIOS Corporation

Visit Montgomery

Montgomery County Public Schools Staff

Ray Gray

E. Kathy Green

Muncha Leah Rodriguez

Julie Sanders

School Service Volunteer

OASIS Tutoring

Special Education Equal Development Society

Evelyn Chung

Evelyn Chung has demonstrated true leadership through her management of more than ten subcommittees and a cadre of volunteers as Chair of the Curriculum Committee for the Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations. By connecting the needs of students and the system with people to help address those needs, she deftly advocates for the instructional needs of the student body while maintaining an eye toward diversity, equity, and inclusion. Through her work with education officials and her efforts to increase the diversity of the council and local PTAs, she has given a voice to many children and families whose concerns and needs have often been overlooked and underrepresented. Along the way, Evelyn Chung's efforts have empowered many parents to speak up and advocate on behalf of their child's needs.

Farzad Makarehchi

Farzad Makarehchi, in his capacity as the first vice president and director for the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Automotive Trades Foundation (ATF), has deeply shaped automotive curriculum and infused it with project-based learning. He supports the program by sharing automotive and business expertise with staff and students at all five ATF program locations; advises the Foundation on industry trends and workforce needs; offers field trip opportunities; and guides curriculum enhancements that ensure students have the skillsets necessary for a lucrative career. He works to promote the industry's need for skilled technicians and customer service representatives. Thanks to Farzad Makarehchi's efforts, students have more opportunities to visit, shadow, and interact with dealership personnel, introducing them to a multitude of career possibilities and strengthening the pipeline of MCPS students who are entering the automotive field.

COMMUNITY INDIVIDUAL

Melissa Regan

Melissa Regan has been a community advocate for MCPS children for more than 20 years. Her service began in 2000 when her youngest child was in kindergarten at S. Christa McAuliffe Elementary School. She has since expanded her service and advocacy far beyond the Germantown community, now impacting all of Montgomery County. Melissa Regan's service includes the McAuliffe Parent Teacher Association, the Roberto Clemente Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), and the Seneca Valley High School PTSA and Boosters. She also supports Clemente's music program, and Seneca Valley's instrumental program, theater, and after prom. She is involved with the Montgomery County Council Parent Teacher Association, Vision Zero, and the Pride Alliance. The list continues to grow despite her children having graduated from MCPS years ago. School and central office administrators, Board members, and county officials have become accustomed to hearing from Melissa Regan as she works to improve and implement efforts about which she is passionate.

COMMUNITY GROUP

Chinese American Parent Association of Montgomery County (CAPA-MC)

Established in 2016, the Chinese American Parent Association of Montgomery County (CAPA-MC) has helped bridge the gap between MCPS and Montgomery County's diverse Asian Pacific American communities. In 2017, CAPA-MC led the establishment of the first Asian Pacific American Student Action Advisory Group (APASAAG). CAPA-MC works closely with the Board of Education to regularly promote MCPS's initiatives and has led strong community efforts to advocate for a Lunar New Year celebration in MCPS, which has since become an annual tradition; participated in the district's Budget Advisory Committee to provide input for policy priorities; has partnered with MCPS on the Summer RISE program, where CAPA-MC has trained three to six MCPS students on real life workplace activities; and participates as a member of various MCPS committees, to make sure the interests of the Asian Pacific American community are represented. In addition, CAPA-MC has partnered with Montgomery County's Volunteer Center to offer thousands of Student Service Learning hour opportunities for students every year, and it has sponsored various MCPS scholarship events. CAPA-MC's continued involvement with MCPS makes the school system, and community, stronger every day.

CSIOS Corporation

A Maryland-based and veteran-owned business provider of cybersecurity services, CSIOS Corporation volunteers its expertise and financial resources to enhance MCPS' cybercivility, cyberbullying prevention, cybersecurity, and cybersafety programs. CSIOS Corporation also supports after-school education and outdoor programs designed to cultivate MCPS students' cybercuriosity and creativity skills—which are critical for today's learners. Additionally, CSIOS Corporation established The Cesar Pie Cyber Defender Scholarship Fund with an initial gift of \$250,000 to make careers in the cybersecurity industry more accessible to underrepresented students. By investing in MCPS high school seniors, CSIOS Corporation hopes to continue to inspire, increase diversity, and reduce talent shortages in the field of cybersecurity in the state of Maryland, and beyond.

Visit Montgomery

Visit Montgomery, under the leadership of Kelly Groff, has been a leader in the hospitality and tourism industries, encouraging visitors to enjoy all the County has to offer while giving back to the school system. Ms. Groff has spent her entire career in the hospitality industry and is currently serves as Visit Montgomery's CEO. Since 2018, with the creation of the Foundation for Hospitality and Restaurant Management (FHRM), Groff has been an advocate, leader and mentor to MCPS students. She does whatever it takes to ensure FHRM's success and create a direct connection between MCPS students and hospitality industry leaders. To advertise FHRM programming throughout MCPS, she creates marketing materials to share with students, parents and the community that show potential, rewarding hospitality careers to students. Groff also travels to high schools to speak in classrooms. She conducts mock interviews, acting as an employer and providing students with feedback on their presentation, professionalism, skill set and employability. She diligently encourages Visit Montgomery's business partners to hire students as interns, seasonal, part-time and/or full-time employees. Kelly Groff is planning a Hospitality Summit in 2025 that will help FHRM establish deeper roots in the Montgomery County community, and provide valuable experience in the hospitality industry to MCPS students who will help organize and execute the event.

Ray Gray

For over two decades, Ray Gray has served the Bethesda–Chevy Chase (B-CC) High School community as a security assistant and team leader. He brings together members of the security team to mentor several low-performing, at-risk students to encourage them to stay in school. Mr. Gray consistently exhibits a professional demeanor with staff members, for whom the security team hosts an annual breakfast, and is well-liked by students, whom he speaks to with empathy, honesty, care and, when needed, tough love. Beyond his duties at team leader, Mr. Gray partnered with the PTA to start, and has grown, a food pantry where students and sometimes staff who are struggling with food insecurity can seek help. In a testament to the far-reaching impact he has on students, B-CC alumni routinely return to school to visit with Ray Gray and share updates on how their lives are progressing after graduation.

E. Kathy Green

A 30-year MCPS employee, Kathy Green currently serves as the Outreach and Development Coordinator for the Department of Athletics, a role she assumed after serving as athletic director of Sherwood High School. Students and staff have expressed deep admiration for her advocacy, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to student-athletes and education-based athletics. Perhaps her most impactful initiative has been creating and overseeing the Student Athlete Leadership Council (SALC). The council's 60 student leaders serve as the nucleus of the MCPS athletics program, infusing student voice into all aspects of program operations. Kathy Green also leads the planning for systemwide meetings for coaches and athletic directors, which serve as critical professional development opportunities. Ms. Green oversees all aspects of scheduling for MCPS, arranging more than 10,000 athletic contests each year. And her impact extends to the state level, where she was named chair for the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association Girls' Lacrosse Committee. Through all her work, Kathy Green stresses excellence in competition, achievement in the classroom, and citizenship in the school and community. Her strong work ethic, unwavering loyalty, and passion to serve have shined at all organizational levels.

Muncha Leah Rodriguez

Muncha Leah Rodriguez works tirelessly to build customized approaches that serve each of her students and their families. She seeks to meet not only their educational needs, but also their behavioral needs and physical needs. She also helps her students overcome communication struggles and cultivate essential social and life skills that are essential to be successful into adulthood. She leverages resources within MCPS, scours the internet, and reaches out to friends and other teachers, searching for ways to teach her students to be safe, happy, and healthy so each of them can reach their personal level of independence. For years, Muncha Leah Rodriguez ran the Best Buddies Club and created opportunities for students in the program to engage in a meaningful way with their non-disabled peers through scavenger hunts, cooking activities, and art projects. Muncha Leah Rodriguez is a true champion for all students, and her positive impact reaches far beyond the walls of her classroom.

Julie Sanders

Julie Sanders has been a dedicated MCPS teacher for decades, with an impact reaching far beyond the classroom. The past few years, she has run the Model United Nations (UN) program at Gaithersburg Middle School, where students participate in local and national competitions, creating invaluable connections with students locally and across Europe. Her model and approach to teaching Model UN have been shared and duplicated across the school system. She also supported students in establishing Gaithersburg Middle School's first Pride Club, where students in the LGBTQ+ community worked with school officials to create a more accepting school environment for all. She has invited guests with connections to Holocaust survivors to speak to students, tying their experiences to the school curriculum. A well-respected and passionate educator, Julie Sanders has crafted poetry, created multimedia content and provided connections to outside stakeholders to keep students engaged. Her contributions to the MCPS community will reverberate for years to come.

SCHOOL SERVICE VOLUNTEER

OASIS Tutoring

Oasis Intergenerational Volunteer Tutors has demonstrated unwavering commitment to MCPS elementary schools for more than 25 years. The group's dedication to the improved literacy and well-being of elementary students comes alive through their weekly pledge to tutor and mentor students during the school day. When the pandemic forced a shift in student-learning, Oasis began tutoring virtually, providing students with individualized learning opportunities that were critical for their continued development. Oasis has since returned to schools providing needed reading support, primarily volunteering in high-needs Title I and Focus schools. Beyond tutoring, the group also supplies resources for backpack giveaways, contributes to truancy reduction programs to address chronic absenteeism in middle schools, and supports after-school programs, career days, and other special events.

Special Education Equal Development Society (SEEDS)

Founded in October 2021 as a student-led initiative under the Chinese American Parent Association of Montgomery County (CAPA-MC), the Special Education Equal Development Society (SEEDS) has emerged as a beacon of inclusivity and support within MCPS. SEEDS has provided educational and social services, fostered community integration, advocated for equal rights, and nurtured empathy among its volunteers. SEEDS has conducted weekly classes in drawing, martial arts, ballet, chorus, volleyball, arts and crafts, tutoring, agility training, basketball, swimming, and soccer. These classes have provided consistent opportunities for special education students to engage in enriching activities, fostering their skills and social connections. In doing so, SEEDS develops a culture of compassion and understanding among students, volunteers, and the broader community.

PREVIOUS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

2023

Jewru Bandeh
Ricardo Loaiza
Black Ministers Conference of Montgomery
County Maryland
CTE Healthcare Professions PAC and Sara
Walker President
Jewish Community Relations Council
Luis Cardona and Street Outreach Network
(SONS)
Huayuan Chinese Academy
CAVA
Aranda Brown
Cheryl Sellitti
Farzaneh Nabavian
Marianne Hamerski
Sara Lucas-Dreiss
Sofia Vega-Ormeno
Steven Lightman
Hannah Lucas-Dreiss
John J. McCarthy

2022

Clarence McNeary
Catherine Navarrete
Alexandra Robbins
Foundation for Hospitality and Restaurant
Management
Paisano's – Rockville
Sharon Asro Faber
Cara Grant
Marney Jacobs
Matthew Kamins
Kristin Secan
Daniel Evans

2021

Byron Diaz
Susan Douglass
Kate Haydon
Starbucks Coffee Company – Maryland
Region
Jessica Berrellez
Jeffrey Donald
Daryl Howard
Jennifer Lowndes
Robin McCue
Kenneth Nwocha
Morris Hudson
Jack R. Smith

2020

Craig Koralek
Zoe Tishaev
Community Group
Building Foundations for the Future
Difference Makers
Pro Power Foundation
Volunteers in Science and Technology
DARCARS Automotive Group
Educational Systems Federal Credit Union
Elite Soccer Youth Development Academy, Inc.
Rina Chaves
Lana Haddad
Margaret "Peggy" Mannhaupt-Khoury
Richard "Dick" Lipsky, Ed.D.
VaRysa Williams
Anne Baldini
Sheila Chandler
Ruthanne Stoltzfus
Nancy Navarro
Elizabeth Spencer

2019

Romina Byrd
Byron Johns
Priscilla Fritter Peterson
Craig Rice
Kimberly Szummers
Partnership for Excellence
Carol Trawick
Chaunetta Anderson
Sarah Fillman
Taylor Garber
Randi Gritz
Elizabeth Nardin
Sarah Delphus Neubold
Sean Pang
Lola Rogers
Laurie Tarner
Osar Alvarenga and Sarahi Segura
Joan Paull
Marshal Greenblatt
Mike Michaelson

2018

Nancy Floreen
James Garrant
Daniel Riddle
Milagro Flores—Gaithersburg Mothers'
Club
Kristen Eccleston
Sulma Flores
Genevieve Floyd
Matthew Johnson
Kevin Shindel
Barbara Woodward
Mary Gross
Karen Ward
Michael A. Durso
Odessa Shannon

2017

The Highwood Theatre
Code.org
Richard Reynolds
Kids in Need Distributors
Steven Boden
Michael Shpur
Carol Petersen
Nicholas Saadipour
Daman Harris
Lisa Büttner
Gary Temple
Patricia B. O'Neill

2016

Dottie Fitzgerald
Joe Hooks
Melissa McKenna
Montgomery County Business Roundtable
for Education
Bruce Crispell
Geoffrey Edgar
Patricia Janus
Fernando Moreno
Jeanette Simmons
Paul Geller
Anthony Giles
Larry A. Bowers

2015

Joe Kessler
Robert Thomas
Arthur Williams
Conflict Resolution Center of
Montgomery County
Liberty's Promise
Montgomery County Alliance of
Black School Educators
Passion for Learning, Inc. (Cynthia
Rubenstein)
Strathmore Education (Lauren Campbell)
Imagination Stage (Bonnie Fogel)
Stephanie Brant
Patricia Hurd
Mary Scott
James Lipton
Stuart and Marilyn Morrison
Sherry Reba
Emily Talaga
Isiah Leggett

2014

Susan Gardiner
Steve Peterson
Neal Wilson
Commonweal Foundation
Down Syndrome Network of
Montgomery County, Inc.
Carl Stein-RE/MAX Pro's Realty Company
Washington Area New Auto
Dealers Association
Leroy Hyson
Octavia Jeffries

Michelle Newton
Charles Overly
Kris Secan
Mario Parcan
Hank Heller

2012–2013

Richard Edelman
Larry Edmonds
Antonio Hernandez-Cardoso
Katya Partan
Savers, Inc.
Leo Schwartz
Michael Calvert
James A. Distler
Ronald Frezzo
Kevin Ambrose
Victoria Couch
Kelly and Thomas Giblin
Irene Coleman and Siham Eldadah

2011

Laurie and Steve Augustino
Pamela H. Moomau
Kaiser Permanente
Shulman, Rogers, Gandal, Pordy &
Ecker, P.A.
Whole Foods Market–Kentlands
Marla Caplon
Eric A. Davis
Denise Stultz
Tuyet B. Tran
Don Hauprich
Isabella Mia Lee
James McMann
Bruce Adams
Bonnie Cullison
Stewart Edelstein

2010

Samantha Lint
Kay Romero
Monte Tarbox
Montgomery County Students Information
Technology Foundation, Inc.
Potomac Valley Alumnae Chapter of Delta
Sigma Theta Sorority
Audubon Naturalist Society—GreenKids
Michael Priddy/Intervise Consultants, Inc.
Michael Campbell
Erick Lang
Joe Rubens, Jr.
Building Services Team
College Gardens Elementary School
Pamela Slater, Vivian Nation, George
Powell, Opral Samuels, Rico Wims, and
Yu-Lan Yinlin

2009

Officer Marcus Dixon
Emily McDonell
Admissions and Enrollment Management at
Montgomery College
Junior Achievement of the National Capital
Area Montgomery County District Office
Montgomery County Students
Construction Trades Foundation, Inc.
Deloitte
United Communications Group
Karen Crawford
Susan Freiman
Darc Jackson
Susan Marks
Linda Wanner
Bernard Warfield
John Burley
Mark Freedman
John William Smith

2008

Ana Brito
Thomas M. DeGonia, II
Patti Twigg
The Christ Episcopal Church of Kensington
College Tracks
PALA: Padres y Alumnos Latinos en
Acción—(Latino Parents and Students in
Action)
Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.
Montgomery County Teachers Federal
Credit Union (MCTFCU)
Giles R. Benson
Andrea Bernal
James M. Douglas
Gail Fribush
Karen C. Woodson
Pat Adam
Anjan Choudhury
Joan Karasik
George B. Thomas, Sr.

2007

Joan Donovan
Evelyn Liu
Karen Benn Marshall, Ph.D.
Chinese American Parents and Students
Association (CAPSA)
IMPACT Silver Spring
Project Change
Jon Enten, Enten & Associates
Riderwood Village Retirement Community
Lockheed Martin Corporation
Aggie Alvez
Dianne Jones
Elaine Petrulakis
Michael A. Thomas
Aashish Dewan
Rebecca (Becky) Faherty
Paul Rockwell
Dr. Gabriel Jacobs

2006

Matt Boratenski and the American
Film Institute (AFI)
Choice Hotels International,
Office of the General Counsel
Julie Bennett
Glenn Kikuchi
Chinese Culture and Community Service
Center, Inc.
Montgomery County Police Community
Outreach Section
Project Reboot
Douglas Duncan
Robert Barnes
MCPS Green Building Program
Darryl Norwood
Diana Sayago
Bernice Albert
Robert Paulsen

2005

Mark Drury and Shapiro & Duncan
William Schlossenberg and The Gazette
Art Billings
Nguyen Minh Chau
The African Immigrant and Refugee
Foundation
Conquista tus Sueños (Realize Your
Dreams)
Hospice Caring, Inc.
William Porter
Michael Subin
Robert Barnes
Nivea Berrios
Virginia Bumblis
Susan Bain
David Lechner

2004

Gene Kijowski
Melvyn Leshinsky
Eileen Lavine
Identity, Inc.
Progress Club of Rockville
Rotary Club of North Bethesda
Ana Sol Gutierrez
Teresa Wright
Joseph J. Lavorgna
Jerry M. Marco
Joan Rackey

2003

AmeriDream, Inc.
Lockheed Martin Corporation
Dr. Yvette Butler
Theodore W. Urban
Linkages to Learning
Margit Meissner
Susan Barrett
Dedra H. Greene
James J. Laws

2002

Fitzgerald Auto Malls
Startec Global Communications
Esther P. Gelman
John Lopes
Ruby A. Rubens
The City of Gaithersburg
Interages
Mental Health Association of
Montgomery County
Blair G. Ewing
Joseph Howard
Owen Nichols
John F. Brooks, Jr.
Carol Burke
Richard Sprecher

2001

The Nellis Corporation
Nextel Communications
Dr. Alan Cheung
Diane Cockrell
Marina McKee
Career Transition Program of St. Luke's
House
The Washington Opera
Lillian B. Brown
Robert Hines
Larry A. Bowers

2000

Wanda Brown of PEPCO
Elida Vargas-Carrasco
James and Linda Cafritz
Lois Stoner
Michelle Turner
Benjamin Banneker Honors Math
and Science Society
Hispanic Parents Committee at
Albert Einstein High School
Mary Ann Bowen
Lawrence Shulman
Richard Wilson
Betty Collins
Sandra Shmookler

1999

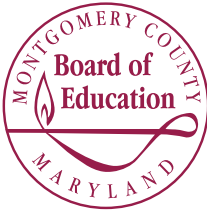
Pennie Abramson and Barry Scher of
Giant Food
GE Information Services
Ron Leung
Lois Robertson
Montgomery County Branch of the
NAACP Parents Council
After School Activity Coordination
Program (ASAC)
Gene W. Counihan
John L. Gildner
Ronald M. Feffer
Kevin Keegan
Madeline Griffin

1998

Douglas Schiffman
Montgomery County Students Automotive
Trades Foundation
African American Festival of Academic
Excellence
Sharp Street Hosts an Academic Resource
Program (SHARP)
Hanley J. Norment
Carol M. Hyatt
Samira Hussein
Phillip F. Gainous
Dr. Dawn Thomas

1997

Marriott Suites of Bethesda
General Electric Information Services and
Elfyn Society
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
I. Austin Heyman
Hugh Packard
George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy
American Coalition for Assistance and
Mentoring Program (ACAMP)
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Lucille Maurer
Roscoe Nix
Gerard F. Consuegra
Amado "Sonny" Narvaez
Juanita Swadner



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VISION

We inspire learning by providing the greatest public education to each and every student.

MISSION

Every student will have the academic, creative problem solving, and social emotional skills to be successful in college and career.

CORE VALUES

*Learning
Relationships
Respect
Excellence
Equity*

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