

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL AWARDS  
FOR  
**Distinguished Service  
to Public Education**  
in Montgomery County



*Thursday, May 2, 2019*  
*Reception 5:30 p.m.*  
*Ceremony 6:00 p.m.*  
*Carver Educational Services Center Auditorium*



## PROGRAM

### *Reception & Entertainment*

Richard Montgomery High School Jazz Combo

### *Welcome & Acknowledgments*

Mrs. Shebra L. Evans

President, Board of Education

### *Presentation of Awards*

Members of the Board of Education

### *Closing Remarks*

Mrs. Shebra L. Evans

President, Board of Education

### *Group Photograph of Award Recipients*

## 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 evening is a celebration of all the award recipients who work tirelessly on behalf of public education and the children of Montgomery County.



## 2019 HONOREES

### **Community Individual**

Craig Rice

Romina Byrd

Byron Johns

Priscilla Fritter Peterson

Kimberly Summers

### **Community Group**

Partnership for Excellence

### **Business**

Carol Trawick

### **Montgomery County Public Schools Staff**

Chaunetta Anderson

Sarah Fillman

Taylor Garber

Randi Gritz

Elizabeth Nardin

Sarah Delphus Neubold

Sean Pang

Lola Rogers

Laurie Tarner

### **School Service Volunteer**

Oscar Alvarenga and Sarahi Segura

Joan Paull

### **Individual Pioneer**

Marshal Greenblatt

Mike Michaelson

# COMMUNITY INDIVIDUAL

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## *Craig Rice*

A lifelong resident of Montgomery County, Mr. Craig Rice attended Montgomery County Public Schools, graduating from Montgomery Blair High School. He attended the University of Illinois, majoring in Aerospace Engineering. Later, he transferred to the University of Maryland, where he graduated with a major in computer science.

Mr. Rice was first elected to the County Council in November 2010, becoming the youngest African American to serve on the nine-member Council and only the second African American male to serve in that role. Mr. Rice's commitment to public service included serving as a member of the House of Delegates in the Maryland General Assembly, from 2006 until 2010, where he served on the legislative body's prestigious and influential Ways and Means Committee.

In 2010, he won the election as the District 2 representative on the County Council. A resident of Germantown, he represents the sprawling Upcounty region of Montgomery County's most geographically diverse and fastest-growing district. Mr. Rice represents some of the county's most rural communities, including Damascus, Boyds, and Hyattstown. He also represents two of the most booming regions in Maryland, Germantown and Clarksburg, in District 2. The district also includes Montgomery Village and part of North Potomac.

Mr. Rice chairs the Council's Education and Culture Committee and serves on its Health and Human Services Committee. In addition, he serves as the Council's representative to the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) in Annapolis, chairs the MACo Education Sub-Committee, and is current president of the MACo Diversity Caucus. Mr. Rice chaired the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee until 2017, and continues to serve as a member of the committee.

In September 2016, Mr. Rice was named to the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (also known as The Kirwan Commission). This commission led the first major review of education funding in the state since the Thornton Commission's review almost two decades ago. Mr. Rice led the subcommittee for the prekindergarten program report. As a member of the prestigious Thornton Commission, he provided leadership for increasing funding for full-day pre-K in Montgomery County and in the state. Mr. Craig Rice's continued dedication to public education and his service to the community make him a deserving recipient of this award.

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## *Romina Byrd*

For the past 20 years, Ms. Romina Byrd has been employed with Miller & Long Co., Inc. and is currently their director of Training Education. Throughout her tenure at Miller & Long, Ms. Byrd has been instrumental in establishing and strengthening the company's partnership with the Montgomery County Students Construction Trades Foundation (CTF). Ms. Byrd's tireless devotion and passion to ensuring that Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students are given opportunities to experience the construction field prior to graduation has made her an asset to the construction program.

As an educational advocate for Miller & Long Co. Inc., Ms. Byrd recognizes the importance of offering engaging construction experiences to secondary students. For the past five years, Ms. Byrd has been an active participant on the CTF Board of Directors and, two years ago, she was nominated and awarded the role as second vice president on the board. Throughout her tenure, Ms. Byrd has been influential in growing and strengthening business partnerships between local businesses and the CTF. As an active CTF board member, she collaborates with other industry partners to share best practices, technology trends, and workforce needs. As a key player in the CTF advisory board, Ms. Byrd helps to guide the curriculum, equipment, and materials needed for a successful construction education program in MCPS.

Recently, Ms. Byrd arranged for the donation of foundation work for the 42nd Young American (YA) student-designed and student-built home. In order to expedite the house project, Ms. Byrd secured the donation of concrete, labor, materials, and equipment from Miller & Long Co. Inc. Additionally, she reached out to another industry partner, Donohoe Construction, and was able to procure a project manager, who organized and supervised the pouring of the foundation. This foundation process was incorporated into lesson plans for students at the construction site. Thanks to Ms. Byrd's efforts, CTF students were able to engage in authentic, residential construction experiences at the site of the upcoming YA home.

Ms. Byrd also supports CTF students through the donation of her time and representation of Miller & Long Co. Inc. at the annual student job fair. Ms. Byrd actively engages with students by providing information about Miller & Long Co. Inc. and conducts a job interview to assess students' skills. At the conclusion of the interview, Ms. Byrd provides feedback to students on their interview skills and résumé composition. Based on their interviews, résumés, and portfolios, Ms. Byrd recommends students for either part-time, full-time, and/or summer employment with Miller & Long Co. Inc.

Ms. Byrd has an unrivaled passion for promoting construction education through local school districts. Through her advocacy, drive, and talent, Ms. Byrd has been an active leader in the Construction Trades Foundation in MCPS and has replicated the partnership in surrounding districts. Ms. Romina Byrd's commitment and hard work with MCPS students and the construction community make her most deserving of this award.

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## *Byron Johns*

Mr. Byron Johns took a nascent parent organization—National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Parents Council—and made it into the influential organization it is today, one that has made a positive difference in the education of students of color in MCPS.

Mr. Johns became chair of the NAACP Parents Council in 2011 and has worked tirelessly to ensure that there is a parent representative who attends Parent, Teacher, and Student Association (PTSA) meetings in all MCPS schools. He has empowered and inspired parents of color. Mr. Johns has demonstrated the importance of advocacy by example. He has worked with parents of color, effectively promoting the importance of being involved in their children's education. Through his work, the benefit of ongoing involvement in the school helps parents understand that one does not show up to school just when there is a problem or issue. His influence extends not only to the African American community, but also to members of the Board of Education, the superintendent of schools, and other elected Montgomery County officials. The Chinese American Parents Association used his work as a model to establish their organization to advocate on behalf of Asian students.

Mr. Johns has been the driving force in expanding the Parents Council partnerships with the MCPS administration, the Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations (MCCPTA), the Montgomery County League of Women Voters, and Latino advocacy organizations such as Identity, Inc. He also has elevated the NAACP Parents Council/MCPS Annual Kickoff into a “must attend” event for parents, MCPS principals, administrators, and all of those invested in the education and achievement of students of color. He has created a dialogue with local, national, and global leaders in education on priority topics that impact communities of color.

Additionally, under his leadership, the NAACP Parents Council has sponsored forums for parents to learn about and hear from candidates for political office such as the School Board, County Council, and County Executive.

Mr. Johns' work as president of the NAACP Parents Council has made a tremendous difference in the education of students of color. He is an outstanding role model not only for students of color, but for all students and parents. He demonstrates how high expectations, hard work, and educating the community about the education of students ensures that ALL students receive a world-class education. He is more than deserving of the recognition that will come with the Distinguished Service to Public Education award for his advocacy and selfless dedication to the students and parents of Montgomery County.

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## *Priscilla Fritter Peterson*

Ms. Priscilla Fritter Peterson is one of the gems of the Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations (MCCPTA). For the past 11 years, Ms. Peterson has been the cultural arts chair for MCCPTA. She has ensured that the cultural arts showcases and accompanying booklet are distributed to all PTA cultural arts chairs districtwide. Ms. Peterson has a lengthy and distinguished career as an accomplished musician. She was a principal flutist with the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. Ms. Peterson has made it her life's mission to bring the arts to all kids. Having been raised in a household of music, Ms. Peterson continues volunteering for, and making a significant contribution to MCCPTA, long after having a child in MCPS, to make sure all our students are given an opportunity to be immersed in the arts.

In addition to serving as MCCPTA cultural arts chair since 2008, Ms. Peterson has served on the Superintendent's Committee for Performances in MCPS for more than 20 years. In these roles, she has emphasized the importance of arts at a time in which our schools need the gifts of outside performances more than ever. Thanks to her efforts, MCPS has talented individuals who bring live musical performances, exotic animals, magicians with positive messages, and hundreds of other creative talents right to the doorsteps of our schools.

It is hard to measure the enormous enrichment over a lifetime that cultural arts brings to each and every one of our MCPS students. The gifts, talent, and enthusiasm of Ms. Priscilla Fritter Peterson have changed the cultural arts landscape in MCPS and she is most deserving of this award.



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## *Kimberly Summers*

Seldom does a person become as woven into the fabric of a school community as Ms. Kimberly Summers has over the past 13 years. Every child matriculating through Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School (Matsunaga ES), Kingsview Middle School (Kingsview MS), and Northwest High School (Northwest HS), reap the rewards of her hard work, clear vision, parent leadership, and dedication to making the experience of school remarkable and memorable.

Ms. Summers began her involvement when her oldest son started kindergarten in 2006. During her time as a parent, Ms. Summers spearheaded efforts that impacted all students. Over the past 13 years, she has served on PTSA boards at each school and has been president of each.

At Matsunaga ES, Ms. Summers raised more than \$35,000 for school improvements by organizing her team of volunteers to carry out various fundraising endeavors. She and her team started an annual silent auction that followed her from Matsunaga ES to Kingsview MS, and now to Northwest HS. One of her massive undertakings was the organization of an “all-school field day” at Matsunaga ES, a school so large that grade levels had to do a one field day each day for 6 days to allow every child in each grade level to participate. This event has created lasting memories for hundreds of children.

At Kingsview MS, she continued her excellent work by introducing several whole-school events that have since become annual traditions. The first, a Color Run, involves the coordination of permission slips, grade-level scheduling, parent volunteers, and lots of color. Ms. Summer’s vision for the event was that all 1,000 students at the school would have an opportunity to participate. Therefore, instead of organizing an after-school or weekend event as many schools do, Ms. Summers collaborated with other parents, school staff, and local businesses to make it possible to run three separate Color Runs during the school day—one for each grade level! As a result, this event, which started years ago as a fundraiser, has turned into a springtime rite of passage for the middle schoolers and teachers.

At Northwest HS, Ms. Summers took on the role of PTSA president when her second son was a freshman. Not only has the PTSA worked to beautify the school, she also has led the charge to raise money for even more school improvements. Furthermore, she recognized that it is important to empower students in improving their school, so she started a Jag Pride Club to build school spirit, help with school improvements, and provide meaningful leadership opportunities for students.

To say that she has had a lasting impact on the lives of thousands of students and their families is an understatement. Ms. Kim Summers is truly a servant leader who thrives off of opportunities to make her community a better place. Her masterful organization, selfless dedication, and tireless work ethic, have left a lasting impression that benefits those around her. She is in the heart of each school she touches. Our community, our children, and our families are deeply grateful for her and are excited to see her honored with this award.

## *Partnership for Excellence*

The Partnership for Excellence has roots in the community, going back more than 19 years. Originally, it was a group of community advocates and service providers called the Scotland Excellence group. During the last three years, community providers, school personnel, and families have worked together to develop plans and supports for the Scotland community and underserved portions of the larger Potomac community. This partnership has helped highlight information and consolidate the support for underserved children and families by sharing resources and aligning the work of a variety of groups so that, together, they can make a bigger difference in the lives of students and families.

The Partnership for Excellence has collaborated with MCPS at the elementary, middle, and high school levels to promote and support county initiatives. They have served as a hub for unifying the work with the community of the Montgomery County Police Department, Suburban Hospital, the Montgomery County Recreation Department, Scotland Storm, the Scotland A.M.E. Zion Church, and other community groups. Specifically, the Partnership for Excellence has coordinated and promoted information campaigns, after-school and summer programming, and tutoring for students.

The Partnership for Excellence has assisted with promoting communications and information about MCPS programs and opportunities to the families and community, providing families with information about counseling services, the Naviance system (for helping student prepare for life after high school), articulation, and special education services. They have helped coordinate information nights and celebrations to bring students from the wider Potomac service area into the Scotland community and the Thompson Scotland Recreation Center so that all students can benefit from programs and supports provided through the recreations system. They also have helped the community to identify needs and advocate for the specific needs of the families and community to the wider county government and service providers. Their tireless devotion to public education and the Montgomery County community make them a deserving choice for the Distinguished Service Community Group award.

## *Carol Trawick*

Ms. Carol Trawick is a positive driving force in providing unique opportunities for MCPS schools by supporting the success of underrepresented youth. Her foundation—the Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation—has provided multiple schools with grant funding to partner with nonprofit organizations to create experiences based on student need. Ms. Trawick has a vision of how to support the whole school community and works closely with principals to ensure that MCPS creates programs that are accountable for student success.

Ms. Trawick's foundation has provided opportunities for the Parkland Middle School (Parkland MS) community for three consecutive years. During the first two years, Ms. Trawick collaborated with Kid Museum, Passion 4 Learning, and AFI Theater. All Parkland MS students were afforded the opportunity to see a film at AFI Theater that is connected to their grade-level science courses. Trawick's support allowed the school to invite families to watch a film in the evening and hear from speakers about science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM). The underrepresented population of students in STEAM were selected to go to the Kid Museum throughout the year, to learn about the engineering and design process to create their very own inventions. At the end of the year, the school held a celebration where students presented their inventions. They created a short film about their learning journey for the year.

Through this partnership, Parkland MS has received accolades and media attention from MCPS and the local community. This three-year collaboration has inspired MCPS students to take part in more STEAM electives and programs at Parkland MS. Teachers received professional development from the Kid Museum that has engaged them in thinking about how STEAM can be incorporated in their instruction. Families are excited about this program and are telling others about Parkland MS. Ms. Trawick has supported the school's work in designing and aligning their program with MCPS, so that it can be implemented in other schools in the county.

The Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation has supported GMStrong! GMStrong!, at Gaithersburg Middle School (Gaithersburg MS)—is a holistic in-school and after-school program designed to impact all Gaithersburg MS students through strength messaging to increase connectedness and resiliency and tackle social and emotional issues.

Ms. Trawick is a visionary; her support transcends the school building and truly makes a difference in the lives and futures of MCPS students and the school community. The lives that she has touched, directly and indirectly, extends to underserved student populations throughout MCPS. She is an exceptional individual, who is committed to supporting the success of ALL MCPS students. She is truly a pioneer in offering grants to schools and giving them the autonomy to work with nonprofit organizations to provide unique opportunities for their students. For all these reasons, and more, Ms. Trawick is an exemplary candidate for this award.

## *Chaunetta Anderson*

As a teacher, Mrs. Chaunetta Anderson works tirelessly and around the clock for MCPS students (in addition to the four children of her own at home). She has created a strong student government association (SGA) program at Neelsville Middle School (Neelsville MS) and is using her role to show students the power of their voice. Mrs. Anderson has had students speak in front of the Montgomery County Board of Education on at least two occasions. Those students now understand the power of their voice. Mrs. Anderson held a wonderful SGA banquet at the end of last year to celebrate the SGA's successful first year.

Mrs. Anderson is constantly recognizing students and staff. She has implemented a Teacher of the Month program at Neelsville MS to recognize staff for their hard work; she creates events to bring the community into the school building, like "A Safe Knight In" (a trick or treating event), and she is an equity warrior. She also cares about the building as a whole. Thanks to her hard work, Neelsville MS is now on the list of schools recommended for the Capital Improvements Program.

Mrs. Anderson works extremely hard for the staff and students. She builds great relationships and wants the best for everyone. She is always doing something to benefit everyone in the building, trying to make Neelsville MS a better place. Mrs. Anderson does not give up. Professionally and respectfully, she gets the job done. Her staff and school families know that they can depend on her. Mrs. Chaunetta Anderson is most deserving of this award and all the recognition and celebration that comes with it.



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## *Sarah Fillman*

Ms. Sarah Fillman assumed the role of the Communication Arts Program (CAP) coordinator at Montgomery Blair High School in 2014. Since then, she has heralded a variety of reforms to CAP that have helped diversify the student body, improve the interdisciplinary nature of the program, and build a small learning community in which students and teachers are working together to ensure a school experience defined by a sense of civic purpose, communal belonging, and academic achievement.

Ms. Fillman has embraced this program by recognizing the need to cast a wider net so that more middle school students, especially those who are not attending middle schools with “test-in” special programs, are familiar with the CAP application process and know that if they are admitted, they will find a supportive community of their peers. This initiative was started as soon as Ms. Fillman took on the role of CAP coordinator, and was heightened through her collaboration with a student-led advocacy group, Black CAP.

Black CAP was founded in 2015, and seeks to both diversify “test-in” magnet programs and offer supportive spaces for students of color in special programs. Ms. Fillman embraced Black CAP and coordinated efforts with them to help promote the CAP in schools that traditionally had not provided many students for the program. In doing so, the culture of the CAP became one that recognized the need to diversify, but also embraced that need by supporting a community of students who sought to ensure that students of color, who might otherwise feel isolated, felt a sense of belonging and support.

It is important to note that the Communication Arts Program has seen a significant increase in student retention, which translates to more students receiving prestigious CAP certificates. In addition, a greater percentage of students of color are applying to the program, being accepted to the program, and completing the program. The students who complete a CAP certificate undoubtedly have an elevated sense of civic altruism, an unwavering commitment to seeking out and understanding diverse perspectives, and a solid academic foundation. For many of them, this is due to the hard work of Ms. Fillman, a deserving recipient of this award.

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## *Taylor Garber*

Dedicated would not even begin to describe Ashburton Elementary School's Ms. Taylor Garber's commitment to MCPS students. She runs an after-school club twice a week for students impacted by poverty, runs mentoring programs among staff, and continuously builds strong relationships with MCPS's hardest-to-reach students. Ms. Garber cares so deeply for her students that she even has created personalized handshakes with each of her mentees. These daily efforts by Ms. Garber are immensely powerful for their well-being.

Last year, Ms. Garber started "Homework Club" twice a week, for students who need more structure outside of school. Students have snacks, homework help, and extra recess. They also are provided with small-group supplemental homework support by Ms. Garber and other teachers (recruited by Ms. Garber) on any academic area a student may need help with. Furthermore, Ms. Garber has organized middle schoolers to volunteer to read to younger students in each Homework Club.

Students who have participated in this program over the years have learned they can depend on Ms. Garber. These students will have lasting relationships with one another and are making strides socially, emotionally, and academically. Ms. Garber's dedication and commitment to MCPS students make her deserving of this award.

## *Randi Gritz*

Mrs. Randi Gritz is the personification of kindness. She is warm and caring with every child and regularly searches for opportunities to improve their lives at Thomas W. Pyle Middle School. For the past six years, she has run a program to provide bags of food to low-income students every Friday, so they do not have to worry about food during the weekends. During the holidays, she creates baskets of goods and drops them off at families' homes. Her insight into the need for this program and her passion in implementing the program undoubtedly shows her compassion and caring for all students.

These students are better able to learn and focus on their school work because they are not worried about what they are going to eat. Her kind and thoughtful efforts support these students, improve their lives, and make MCPS better. Mrs. Gritz embodies the values of the Distinguished Service award and strongly deserves this recognition.

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## *Elizabeth Nardin*

Ms. Elizabeth Nardin is dedicated to the students in the “School Community Based” (SCB) program, which has some of the most vulnerable students in MCPS. As many educators do, Ms. Nardin arrives early and stays late, not just to plan, but to support her students in almost every way imaginable. This includes helping students off the bus, supporting parents, and doing everything in her power to make sure our students learn the basic life skills they need once they complete their schooling. Ms. Nardin does not stop there, she is constantly thinking of more ways to help the families by connecting them with adult agencies and services.

In 2016, she cofounded “The Green Fork Salad Co.,” an in-school job skills class where students with special needs work on important life and job skills, including grocery shopping, basic food preparation, customer service, and cleaning skills. This program has now served more than 2,000 salads/soups/sandwiches to staff at Gaithersburg High School (Gaithersburg HS).

In its third year, The Green Fork Salad Co. has served as a sustainable weekly job-training site for the SCB students. Staff have the ability to order a fresh and tasty lunch once a week, for a \$5 donation, which has provided students with countless hours of job and life-skills preparation.

Ms. Nardin consistently goes above and beyond for her students. While at Watkins Mill High School, she and her “Living for Independence” students started a GoFundMe campaign to get a power chair for one of her students. When she heard there were openings for a residential adult program, she worked with the family of a student who had only briefly been in her program to get them connected. Now, this former student is thriving. She has made countless visits to adult agencies and now serves on the Board of Directors at Rehabilitation Opportunities, Inc., using this position to gain insight into how to best prepare students for their post-high-school success. Student job and life skills have expanded tremendously through her unwavering and diligent instruction and drive.

There are countless many more things that Ms. Nardin has done, all of which serve our students and their families beyond measure. She is an outstanding educator, an outspoken advocate, and an incredible believer that all students can succeed. She is most deserving of this prestigious award.

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## *Sarah Delphus Neubold*

Ms. Sarah Delphus Neubold has been a visual arts educator in MCPS since 2002 and currently serves as the MCPS Fine Arts content specialist. She supports more than 500 pre-K–12 Visual Arts, Theatre, and Dance teachers across the district. Ms. Neubold is a committed advocate for equitable access to high-quality education through the fine arts for all students. She believes the fine arts are an elemental embodiment of the human spirit, because every culture in the world uses the arts as a means of expression.

Ms. Neubold's service to public education extends beyond her position within MCPS. She is actively involved and a leader in several professional associations (Maryland Art Education Association, National Art Education Association, and the Montgomery County Education Association).

Ms. Neubold seeks opportunities to display student artwork in highly visible locations across the county, state, and nation. She works closely with the MCPS Visual Art Center (VAC) at Einstein High School and, during the past three years, has streamlined the application process. As a result, the program has the capacity to assess more students in a shorter amount of time. Every spring, Sarah provides verbal and written feedback to VAC students, after participating in their senior art show critique.

The MCPS Theatre Festival, coordinated by Ms. Neubold, has a direct impact on more than 300 students annually. Professional theatre artists adjudicate student performances and portfolio presentations. Adjudication gives middle and high school students the opportunity to perform and receive critiques from external theatre experts. These critiques also may be used by teachers to inform their daily instruction. In addition, colleges and universities attend and support this event with workshops, audition opportunities, and student scholarships. All students in attendance have the opportunity to participate in multiple sessions that align directly with the artistic processes identified in the MCPS Theatre Curriculum Standards.

For MCPS students, the fine arts play a unique role in their education, because they allow each individual to express his or her personal voice, yet, at the same time, speak a language known to all. Ms. Neubold has been a leader in promoting the fine arts as a pathway to academic excellence, creative problem solving, and social emotional learning. She believes the arts are absolutely essential to an educational program that prepares our students for success in college and in future careers and, ideally, a lifetime of learning. Many of MCPS' art students can attest to this fact and the important role Ms. Neubold has played in their education, making her more than worthy of this award.

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## *Sean Pang*

Mr. Sean Pang is an outstanding teacher, who makes himself available for his students day in and day out. He was nominated for this award by a student at Rockville High School (Rockville HS). He is the sponsor of so many initiatives, from the award-winning literary magazine club, Echoes, to the Asian American club, and, most recently the Fringes initiative. The Fringes Initiative was a project that a student and Mr. Pang worked on together for more than six months, to establish a college scholarship fund for low-income MCPS high school seniors. Mr. Pang inspired this student to start this project her sophomore year, when she had him as a teacher. He told her she could change the world and acknowledged her potential. A year later, the student returned and told him she wanted to do something, anything, to help her community and he devoted himself to helping her find out what that something would be.

During the next six months, he worked diligently with the student to uncover the hidden pockets of poverty in Montgomery County. They created a documentary, called “Fringes,” to highlight the struggles of people living on the fringes of this wealthy county. Mr. Pang was able to share the documentary and coordinate the scholarship, and together they raised \$1,000 to give back. That is at the core of who Mr. Pang is— someone always looking to give back. It is not a surprise that The Washington Post named him Teacher of the Year in 2016.

Mr. Pang’s commitment and dedication to his students has made his school a more welcoming place. He has single-handedly fostered a community of togetherness at Rockville HS. Every day at lunch, his classroom is teeming with people, because they know his room is a safe space to hang out in. In the halls, he is always ready to greet students with a smile. He always makes himself available for his students and it is very heartwarming. He truly deserves this award.



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## *Lola Rogers*

Ms. Lola Rogers is the go to person at Watkins Mill High School (Watkins Mill HS). Ms. Rogers is compassionate, wickedly smart, positive, energetic, dedicated, creative, and has a great sense of humor.

Ms. Rogers shows her commitment to students every day in the classroom by greeting them with warmth and humor, yet she has a no-nonsense demeanor. They know she will go above and beyond to help them, but they also know that she is not one they can easily fool. She has bought clothes for her students and families and has delivered furniture to one of her homeless students. Her heart knows no boundaries. Outside the classroom, Ms. Rogers also runs the Youth Summit program, which provides a fun, comprehensive environment for rising Grade 9 students to find out about Watkins Mill HS.

For the past three years, Ms. Rogers has been coordinator of the Trawick grant (a grant that she applied for and won). This Youth Summit grant helps 100 incoming freshmen get started at Watkins Mill HS each year. During the summer, she plans for these students to go on whitewater rafting and rock-climbing trips. She lines up guest speakers and provides breakfast, lunch, and dinner with parents on the last day of the Youth Summit. During the school year, it is a daily program that emphasizes leadership, participation, and advocating for school and self. This \$150,000 grant helps incoming freshmen by exposing them to upper classmate support and adult mentors, along with exposing them to extracurricular experiences. Throughout the school year, she frequently checks up on her Youth Summit students and even has several more group outings.

In addition to her other pursuits, Ms. Rogers is heavily involved in the school's School Energy and Recycling Team (SERT) program. She consistently reminds students and staff to recycle and turn off lights, especially before each holiday, which helps save energy and money for the school system. Watkins Mill HS benefits from the monies received from SERT because of these energy savings. Overall, Ms. Lola Rogers is an outstanding member of the MCPS community and goes above and beyond regularly, making her the perfect candidate for this prestigious award.

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## *Laurie Tarner*

Recently retired MCPS counselor Laurie Tarner is a rare individual. She has gone the extra mile for many years at Earle B. Wood Middle School (Wood MS). When her off hours could have been spent doing things for herself and her family, she spent it with her family in service to the entire Wood MS community. Her upbeat nature, love for students and community, and tireless work ethic made her school shine in a most unique way. She believed in her Wood MS kids, and her efforts still shine today as a beacon for all who enter.

Ms. Tarner and her daughter would find inspirational words and transform them into motivational art masterpieces that adorn Wood MS. These phrases, sayings, and quotes by great people in history are each lovingly hand cut, letter by letter, from two or more layers of paper, creating a most striking effect. Ms. Tarner and her daughter would buy craft paper, or any interesting paper, and carefully cut out each letter, layering one over another, in a loving, painstaking process that, when put together, creates a motivational, artistic masterpiece. As anyone who has visited Wood MS can well attest, the words adorning the walls of their school strike a chord with all and inspire the students, staff, volunteers, and visitors to this hallowed building each and every day.

While Ms. Tarner may be retired from her stellar 30 plus years with MCPS, her loving crafts-womanship lives on in her beloved school. People like Ms. Tarner are in short supply and should be celebrated. The fact that she and her family invested hours of tender loving care into each handcrafted grouping of words is incredible. The fact that these words go on to inspire current and future Woodites is a rare gift indeed. Ms. Tarner never sought recognition for this labor of love; and we are proud to honor her today with this prestigious award.



# SCHOOL SERVICE VOLUNTEER ---

## *Oscar Alvarenga and Sarahi Segura*

The dynamic duo that is Oscar Alvarenga and his wife Sarahi Segura have breathed a new sense of pride into Summit Hall Elementary School (Summit Hall ES). Since at least 2012, they have led their school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and community in myriad ways that have touched the lives of each and every person fortunate enough to be part of the Summit Hall ES family.

Mr. Alvarenga has been a tireless advocate for bringing the best to his school as PTA president, advocate, and parent extraordinaire. He has the rare ability to say he attended that school himself as a student, a fact he used, to great effect, as a tireless advocate for getting two outbuildings constructed outside the walls of his beloved school, replacing several portables, one of which housed him when he was a student there. Mr. Alvarenga and Mrs. Segura constantly have gone the extra mile over the years to make sure the students at Summit Hall ES have the best events and all services possible. They have been responsible for the staging of special shows, produced, sponsored, written, and coordinated by the students and their families; free professional tennis clinics; color runs; and just about every sort of event possible to make sure each and every student at the school feels cared for and special. They are fixtures at the school. The students, teachers, staff, and community all love them.

The principal welcomed Mr. Alvarenga and Mrs. Segura in and, along with others, including many teachers and staff, encouraged them to get more involved in the school. Once Mr. Alvarenga became their PTA president, he and Mrs. Segura were off and running. Mr. Alvarenga attended every single Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Association (MCCPTA) and Maryland PTA training class. Mr. Alvarenga was eager to improve membership and engagement in his community. He took meticulous notes and asked every question imaginable. He wanted to be the best PTA president possible for Summit Hall ES.

When Mr. Alvarenga saw that some schools offered after-school tennis programs, at a cost of course, he decided to go speak to someone at the United States Tennis Association (USTA). Using his incredible powers of persuasion, he was able to provide free tennis lessons after school for students of Summit Hall ES. When Betsy Perry, a legend in her own right in MCPS, wanted a student to address the BELL Program graduates at Summit Hall ES, Mr. Alvarenga inspired and mesmerized all present with his story of being a Summit Hall ES student back in the day, the challenges he faced, and how he rose above it all to dedicate himself to his family and others. A couple of years ago, Mr. Alvarenga had heard about how "Color Runs" were all the rage. Not wanting the students of Summit Hall ES to miss out on this opportunity, he found sponsors for most, if not all, of the event. When the furniture in the staff lounge was fit for kindling, and the walls became dull,

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## *Oscar Alvarenga and Sarahi Segura* *continued*

“Hurricane Alvarenga and Segura” went to work. With the help of a few others, they spruced up the lounge and made it a showplace of respite and rejuvenation for the educators. When the National Book Festival was in full swing in Washington, D.C., Mr. Alvarenga wanted some of his Summit Hall ES students to have an opportunity to attend. So, in inimitable Alvarenga fashion, he convinced the City of Gaithersburg to fund a bus to take some students downtown on a weekend to enjoy a day of this wonderful salute to reading. A couple of years ago, Mr. Alvarenga and Mrs. Segura wanted to give the students an opportunity to compose and put on a play. So, with little experience in doing so, Mr. Alvarenga, Mrs. Segura, and some other families got together to help the students live their dream. It seems the entire community, families and all, had come out to celebrate this triumph of Summit Hall ES students. It was a wonderful performance, full of love, pride, and show-personship. It was an experience, like most others that have taken place in the last six years, which was made possible through the big hearts, tremendous intelligence, and unmatched persuasion skills of Mr. Alveranga and Mrs. Segura. They are two of the finest examples of selfless devotion and dedication to their community and are most deserving of this very important award.



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## *Joan Paull*

Ms. Joan Paull has been a dedicated school volunteer for MCPS schools for more than 21 years! She has worked in three MCPS schools, starting at Cloverly Elementary School (Cloverly ES) when her granddaughter began kindergarten. She has a particular love of the library media center and has dedicated many hours to shelving books, repairing books, laminating items for teachers, caring for the courtyard, and supporting the school in any way that she could. A boundary change for her granddaughter meant a new volunteer opportunity for Ms. Paull, as she began volunteering at Sherwood Elementary School (Sherwood ES), serving in the same capacity she did at Cloverly ES. After her granddaughter completed elementary school, she continued to volunteer at Sherwood ES. Now, long after her granddaughter graduated from MCPS, Ms. Paull continues to volunteer. She joined the volunteers at Bel Pre Elementary School when she heard about the need for volunteers. She continues to serve the kindergarten students in Ms. Schnabel's class, helping them with reading reinforcement and sharing a wealth of information with them.

Currently, Ms. Paull is the only consistent volunteer in the library media center. At every school she has volunteered at, the students know her as "Grandma Paull," an endearing term that she has earned because she is truly everyone's grandma, believing all children can learn and excel. She is kind, patient, and very knowledgeable. Ms. Paull has an incredible "can-do" spirit and is a true model of a life-longer learner who believes in service to others. She says the key is to "keep moving" and that serving others brings her joy. She is truly a gem of an individual and very deserving of this recognition from MCPS for her many contributions to the students, staff, and parents of MCPS.



# INDIVIDUAL PIONEER

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## *Marshal Greenblatt*

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the creation of the Marian Greenblatt Education Fund (MGEF or the Fund). The Fund has grown from a small charity that recognized one MCPS teacher per year to a multifaceted effort that has awarded more than 100 MCPS teachers with roughly \$100,000 in cash prizes. Beyond its teacher awards, the Fund has supported MCPS in numerous other ways, including awarding more than \$70,000 in prizes and scholarships for academic achievement to 500+ MCPS students, creating a vital IT training program for MCPS students, and encouraging aspiring teachers. One person is responsible for the Fund's dynamic support for MCPS: Dr. Marshal Greenblatt. Since he founded the Fund in 1989, MGEF has awarded \$167,800 to excellent teachers and students—\$97,500 has gone to 105 teachers and \$70,300 to 520 students.

Indeed, the Fund was Dr. Greenblatt's brainchild, created in 1989 to commemorate his late wife, Dr. Marian Greenblatt, and to honor excellent MCPS teachers every year. Under Dr. Greenblatt's leadership, the Fund not only recognizes great Montgomery County teachers on its own, but also has partnered with MCPS since 2005 to select its Teacher of the Year (TOY).

Dr. Greenblatt expanded the Fund's awards by creating a separate prize that honors more junior teachers who are rising stars in their profession. His reason behind creating this award is to keep those exceptionally talented junior teachers in the



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MCPS system. Similarly, Dr. Greenblatt wanted to support aspiring teachers, so he created an award to recognize an outstanding student (undergraduate or graduate) at the University of Maryland, College of Education, who aspires to teach K-12.

Dr. Greenblatt's vision did not stop at recognizing great teacher, he also wanted to recognize academic achievement by students. With that in mind, he established the Marian Greenblatt Social Studies Award to recognize one junior at each MCPS high school for excellence in social studies, his late wife's teaching specialty. This award alone has honored hundreds of MCPS students for academic achievement. Dr. Greenblatt also cofounded a world language scholarship that awards at least one high school student a prize of \$1,000 for outstanding performance in a foreign language. While this award started at Watkins Mill High School, it has now expanded throughout the County.

Dr. Greenblatt's support for MCPS is not limited to honoring teachers and students. Through the Fund, he also cofounded the Information Technology Foundation (ITF). This nonprofit foundation was established cooperatively by MCPS, Dr. Greenblatt, and others in the Montgomery County business community to promote critical IT education in Grades K–12 through hands-on instruction and on-the-job training. Dr. Greenblatt served as ITF president from 2005–2006 and has been a member of its Board of Directors since ITF's inception.

Notably, Dr. Greenblatt has done—and continues to do—all of this as a volunteer. He has spent literally thousands of hours during the past 30 years, creating the Fund, soliciting nominations every year, reviewing tens of thousands of pages of nominations, leading more than 100 award ceremonies at MCPS locations across the county, envisioning new awards and working with MCPS to turn those ideas into a reality, imagining a partnership with MCPS on the TOY awards, and spending the time to develop the process with MCPS, actively participating in the TOY selections every year, and speaking, at the request of MCPS, at numerous new-teacher orientations.

Dr. Marshal Greenblatt's actions during the past 30 years have had a profound impact on MCPS teachers and students. His creativity and boundless energy have inspired a full generations of MCPS teachers and students to achieve excellence. Dr. Greenblatt, therefore, is a most deserving candidate for the 2019 MCPS Individual Distinguished Service Award.

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## *Mike Michaelson*

Mr. Mike Michaelson was the student affairs specialist for MCPS from 1958–1995. In that position, he mentored students from across the county and the state to encourage them to care about their education and to contribute to it by being involved in student activities, including the county student government organizations.

He taught multiple generations of students how to effect change, from the student activists of the 1960s, to the development of the student involvement policy and the code of student rights and responsibilities and enactment of legislation adding a student to the school board in the 1970s, to the direct election of the student board member and enactment of partial voting rights in the 1980s, to the first student members to exercise voting rights in the 1990s.

Mr. Michaelson was dedicated to students of all ages, races, religions, ethnicities, national origins, and locations within the county, before it was fashionable. He continued his work with students as one of the key figures in the Maryland Leadership Workshops and as an advisor to the Maryland Association of Student Councils long after his retirement from MCPS. He has been a mentor to so many students who have gone on to leadership positions in adulthood and has managed to stay in touch with them over the years.

Montgomery County residents have been impressed by the consistent quality and good work of Montgomery County's student leaders and its student members of the board. More than any other individual in the last 50 to 60 years, Mr. Michaelson is responsible for creating an expectation that students should be involved in educational decisions and should speak out on their own behalf; but, they also needed to "do their homework" and know how to represent themselves effectively to the school board and to other elected officials. That culture and expectation has been passed along from one generation of students to the next, and has been an important part of leadership education in Montgomery County. He is to be recognized for laying its groundwork. Mr. Mike Michaelson's dedication and passion for student leadership and the students of MCPS are a perfect match for the qualities honored by this Individual Distinguished Service Award.

# PREVIOUS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

## 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





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