

The Milton Foundation for Education

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The Milton Foundation for Education Honors Seven Educators with The Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award for 2005

Seven educators from the Milton Public Schools have been chosen to receive the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award for 2005 by the Milton Foundation for Education.

The recipients of the annual honor this year are: Stanley Gustafson, Milton High School automotive teacher; Tamara Bauer, Pierce Middle School Latin teacher; Maureen Flanagan, third grade teacher at Glover Elementary School; Daniela Ignagni, second grade teacher at Tucker Elementary School; Kelly Hannon, Special Education teacher at Collicot Elementary School; and Martine Murphy, second grade French Immersion teacher at Cunningham Elementary School. In addition, the annual Mary Grassa O'Neill Award, given to a teacher for leadership and dedication to the Milton Public Schools, was awarded to Barbara Seegraber, 12th grade English teacher and retiring chair of the High School English Department.

The seven recipients, who were surprised with the news and celebratory cakes in their classrooms on Monday, April 25, will be honored at a reception in May at the new Milton High School auditorium.

“These are the teachers who make Milton Public Schools among the tops in the state,” said Carla Kindt, a Milton Foundation for Education board

member and chair of the event. “They share outstanding credentials, a professional approach to their jobs and a real commitment to our children.”

The Outstanding Teacher Award program is part of the Foundation’s goal to acknowledge the professionalism, innovation and dedication displayed by the town’s public school teachers, counselors and specialists who educate more than 3,400 Milton children each day in four elementary schools, Pierce Middle School and Milton High School.

Endorsed by parents, colleagues and students, the seven honorees bring decades of experience to the town’s school system.

Stanley Gustafson, who has taught automotive mechanics for 32 years, was nominated by the seniors of this year’s Milton High School graduating class. One student wrote: “He teaches about more than cars. He teaches about money and what to do with it. We should rename his class “After High School 101””.

Another student wrote: “He is a wonderful man with the best outlook on life. “Life is great!””. A parent said: “Mr. Gustafson is able to get a class of people of all different learning styles to come together and be excited about schoolwork.”

Tamara Bauer, a Pierce Latin teacher who has worked in Milton for 6 years, was praised: “She is passionate about teaching Latin to her students. In the classroom her excitement for her subject matter spreads rapidly to her students.” Another supporter said: “She is a truly gifted, dedicated teacher.”

A colleague noted: “Mrs. Bauer selflessly gives up much of her personal time to allow her students to have profoundly enriching experiences.”

Maureen Flanagan, third grade teacher at Glover, was praised by a parent: “Mrs. Flanagan’s love of reading is obvious and she works diligently to help her students understand that reading is the key to knowledge.” Another supporter wrote: “She is constantly juggling the needs of all students, striving to ensure that each student learns at his or her own pace and to his or her full potential.” She has taught in Milton for 15 years.

Mrs. Flanagan was lauded: “She lends real meaning to the phrase “no child left behind.”

Tucker second grade teacher Daniela Ignagni has taught in Milton for 6 years. She was recognized for being “a good role model for children, inspiring them to be as much as they can be.” A parent wrote: “She understands my child and knows how to work with her so that she feels safe, smart, and comfortable in her environment. She reinforces her strengths and works gently on her weaknesses.”

Mrs. Ignagni “fosters a love of learning, while building self-esteem in her classroom,” according to one supporter.

Collicot Special Education teacher Kelly Hannon, who has been teaching in the Milton Public Schools for 7 years, was recognized because: “She treats each student as if they were her own. It makes parents feel that their children are in exceptional hands.” Another parent wrote: “She is extremely patient, encouraging, dedicated, and inspiring.”

“Mrs. Hannon has high expectations of the students” said a supporter. “She challenges them and encourages them to strive to meet their goals. Her approach with students is warm and enthusiastic.”

Cunningham third grade French Immersion teacher Martine Murphy is a 2-year veteran of the Milton schools. Her nomination included the assessment: “Mme. Murphy is prepared, creative, generous of heart, time, and energy.” Another parent wrote: “Mme. Murphy has worked relentlessly to give the students a wonderful experience each and every day. All of her students know their class’s private ‘cheer!’.”

Along with Mr. Gustafson, Milton High School English Department Chair and 12th grade teacher Barbara Seegraber has been at her craft for 32 years. She was cited as the Mary Grassa O’Neill Award recipient for her “Hard work and passion about her subject; she has made an extraordinary contribution to the students of Milton High School.”

A current student wrote: “She is a special teacher who is a saint. She teaches us stuff that we don’t know. No one else would go the extra mile to make us succeed.” Another student commended: “She made a difference in my life.” and a third wrote: “She cares deeply about her students and touches the life of every student she teaches.”

The Milton Foundation for Education is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the educational programs of the Milton Public Schools. Throughout the year, the Foundation awards grants to teachers and specialists to support their work; recognizes the system’s most outstanding teachers; and raises funds to supplement programs throughout all schools as well as the ongoing work of the foundation.

For more information about the Milton Foundation for Education, please visit their website at: www.MiltonFoundationforEducation.org.

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