

For Immediate Release
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2006 Celebration for Educations Offers Infinite Possibilities for Milton Students

Paul Damiani, a dynamic and engaging science teacher at Milton High School, is the first to admit his job got a lot easier when "CSI" became a hit television show. "I am seeing kids who never really liked science before get so excited about scientific concepts, like DNA testing," Mr. Damiani said. "We have an opportunity now to capitalize on this craze, and it will benefit students across the spectrum, from those struggling with introductory science classes to those taking AP Honors Chemistry and Biology."

Mr. Damiani has proposed converting his current high school science classroom into a biotechnology laboratory, a dream that will become a reality if this year's Celebration for Education meets its goals. The theme for this year's event, which will be held on November 18th at Lombardo's in Randolph, is "From Zero to Zenith...Infinite Possibilities." Celebration for Education is the signature fund-raiser of the Milton Foundation for Education, which will use this year's proceeds to fund innovative math and science curricula, state of the art classroom equipment, and enhanced partnerships between teachers and the community. The MFE will award grants to all six Milton public schools beginning in late November, and new programs will be up and running by the beginning of the 2007 school year.

Peter Hoy, one of the co-chairs of the 2006 Celebration for Education, is enthusiastic about the potential impact of this year's focus on math, science and technology. He cites The World is Flat, a recent book by Thomas Friedman, which found that many of our country's youth have lost their enthusiasm for these subjects. "Unfortunately, not enough students are pursuing advanced studies or careers in these vital areas," Mr. Hoy said. "By investing now in leading edge math and sciences, we will be giving all of our students an important advantage." He applauds Mr. Damiani for his efforts to create a state of the art biotechnology laboratory at Milton High School. "This lab will be used by all high school students, giving accelerated students a unique opportunity to experience college lab conditions, while inspiring average students to consider this emerging field as a career choice."

In the last seven years, Celebration for Education has raised over \$1 million for the Milton public schools. In past years, these funds have supported the arts, music, world languages and physical fitness. Organizers of the 2006 Celebration stress it is never too late to support this critical endeavor. Kristan Bagley Jones, one of the co-chairs this year, is still looking for silent and live auction items, noting that about a third of the money raised last year came from auction sales. "Gift certificates, weekend getaways, sports and theatre tickets, frequent flyer points...all of these are great auction items," Ms. Bagley Jones said. "We are hoping that everyone thinks about what they may have or have access to that someone else would want."

Tickets for Celebration for Education are \$75 each. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets, donating an auction item or becoming a sponsor should call the Celebration Office (room 208 at Pierce Middle School) at 617-696-4568 X2208 or email the Celebration committee at Celebration2006@comcast.net.

(Anne Comber, a volunteer for Celebration for Education 2006, contributed this story to the Times)