



Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

200 West Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410-767-0100 • 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD • MarylandPublicSchools.org

TO: Members of the Maryland State Board of Education
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: May 24-25, 2011
SUBJECT: Recognition of Maryland's 2011-2012 Teachers of the Year

PURPOSE:

To recognize Maryland's newly named 2011-2012 local Teachers of the Year who will represent their school systems in the state and national Teacher of the Year competitions.

BACKGROUND OF THE PROGRAM, SPONSORS, AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Maryland has participated in the National Teacher of the Year Program for twenty-two years. The National Program is sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers and four major underwriters. The Maryland program is sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Education with highest level presenting partners, Comcast, Maryland Automobile Dealers Association, and McDonalds Family of Greater Baltimore, Northrop Grumman, and Platinum Sponsors: Bank of America, Lockheed Martin, Verizon, and Whiting Turning Contracting.

The objective of both national and state programs is to draw public attention to the teaching profession and the contributions of outstanding teachers. The Maryland Teacher of the Year represents the thousands of teachers in the public schools of our State and enters the National Teacher of the Year competition. This year, Maryland Teacher, Michelle Shearer, an AP Chemistry Teacher at Urbana High School in Frederick County, was selected as the National Teacher of the Year and announced by President Obama at a White House Ceremony on May 3, 2011. Maryland's Kim Oliver, another Maryland Teacher of the Year, was selected in 2006 as our first National Teacher of the Year, and served her one-year tenure representing over three million teachers in America. The National Teacher is accorded celebrity status and spends one year out of the classroom, traveling across the country bringing an education message to thousands of people. Maryland's Teacher of the Year, while not removed from the classroom, spends many days speaking at state conferences, college graduations, community and other events, and is invited to join prestigious panels and education committees. The Maryland Teacher participates in the National Teacher of the Year Conference in Dallas, Texas, the National Teacher of the Year Forum in Washington, DC, an ETS sponsored retreat in New Jersey, is recognized by the President at the White House, and attends National

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Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. Each year, all 24 local Maryland Teachers of the Year are honored at a large Gala held at Martin's West. The teachers are also honored by the Maryland General Assembly, Maryland's Congressional Delegation, the Baltimore Orioles and many other organizations.

STATE BOARD CEREMONY:

Approximately 100 guests of the teachers are expected to attend the Board Ceremony, including parents, children, and other family members, local superintendents, principals, and business partners. A brief video of Michelle Shearer's White House Announcement will be shown.

ACTION:

The State Superintendent and State Board President will present each Teacher of the Year with a State Board of Education Citation. A portfolio will also be presented and commemorative pictures will be taken.

Please plan to attend the Teacher of the Year Luncheon* which follows the State Board Meeting. Details follow:

Teacher of the Year Luncheon Celebration

May 25, 2011

12:15 pm - 2:00 pm

Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel (across from MSDE)

The Liberty Ballroom