



Marian Greenblatt Education Fund

2015 Award Recipients

The Marian Greenblatt Fund is proud to announce the four winners of the Greenblatt Awards for 2015. They come from around the county and represent the finest teachers in the country – the teachers of Montgomery County.

Ms. Josephine Luster of Chevy Chase Elementary School is a National Board Certified fifth-grade *Master Teacher* in charge of the successful Highly Gifted Program. She has been involved in a wide range of activities at the school, mentoring new teachers, administering the after-school program, coordinating an arts effort at the school, leading the cheerleading club, leading the homework club, and helping her students achieve ever-increasing results on the reading MSA and MAP-R.

Ms. Jill Raspen of Ridgeview Middle School has been an ambassador throughout the county and the region, teaching others about Chromebooks and Google Apps, describing on television the impact of technology on education, bringing the county PTA council up to date on curriculum changes, and designing changes to the Fairfax County schools English curriculum. A Peace Corps alumna, this *Master Teacher* is known as Miss Teach to the student body and as a loyal Bobcat at school events. One of her most successful efforts was to encourage a shift to heterogeneous grouping in English classes, which has led to improvements in the MAP-R results of the students and increased the percentage of her students who made the honor roll.

Mr. Joseph Gannon, Jr., has been a Social Studies *Master Teacher* at Damascus High School since 1996, teaching special education, on-level, honors, and AP level courses. He started the Economics and AP World History programs at the school, and has sponsored the Girls Golf Team and the Debate Team. He has organized 14 trips abroad, to 16 countries. His students have achieved results on the AP World History Exam that are exceptional. More of his students participate in the Exam than in most MCPS high schools and still achieve significantly above the county averages, an extraordinary result for the smallest high school in the district.

Ms. Ginger Berry of Argyle Middle School is our *Rising-Star Teacher* for 2015. A teacher for just over three years, she is leading the Project SUCCESS at Argyle. This involves her teaching four academic areas to her students in a structure and program designed to address the academic and social issues that often surface at middle school. She volunteered for this complex assignment, relishes it, and is making a difference for her students. Their MAP-R scores are very high. She is also involved in many enrichment programs for all the students at Argyle.

The Marian Greenblatt Fund has been honoring excellent teachers since 1989 and students since 1998. During this time, we have recognized 86 teachers and 416 students with cash awards of \$131,200. The Fund is named in honor of the late Dr. Marian Greenblatt, former president of the Montgomery County Board of Education, history teacher in a high school in New York City, and history and education instructor at Hampton University and the University of Maryland.