



News

from the MNPS Public Information Office

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

Media Inquiries: 615/259-8405

Contact: Olivia Brown
Noelle Mashburn

MNPS Teachers Receive Distinguished Educator Awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (May 20, 2009) – Two MNPS teachers were recently awarded with prestigious honors from the Tennessee Education Association’s (TEA) annual Distinguished Educator Awards Program (DEAP). Pamela Sexton, science teacher and department chair at Cane Ridge High School, was named a Distinguished Classroom Teacher. Janet DeSha, math teacher at East Literature Magnet High, received the Harper Johnson Human Relations Educator Award.

Sexton has been teaching for 12 years – four in Kentucky, seven at East Literature Magnet High, and one at Cane Ridge.

“I am honored to receive this award,” said Sexton. “Being an educator is one of the greatest callings in life. It provides the opportunity for us to shape the future of our nation, one child at a time.”

Sexton was nominated for this honor by the Metro Nashville Education Association, where she is a member of the executive board. She also serves as Political Action Committee for Education (PACE) chairperson and is on the MNEA’s negotiations team.

Last year, Sexton was one of 40 semifinalists for the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship. She has also been nominated for the Presidential Award for Math and Science Teaching and served as an Advanced Placement Biology reader for the past two summers. As an AP reader, Sexton works with fellow AP teachers and college faculty around the world to evaluate and score the free-response section of the AP Biology exam.

DeSha was nominated by colleagues for her role in Anti-Bias Week at East Lit. For nearly a decade, DeSha has organized and supervised this weeklong school-wide project that aims to promote candid and constructive dialogue on difficult or controversial subjects such as racism, classism, sexism, religious intolerance, and student cliques.

Also recognized for their work with MNPS at this year’s TEA Distinguished Educator Awards Program were Nelson Andrews, winner of the Friend of Education Award - Individual; and the Nashville Alliance for Public Education, winner of the Friend of Education Award – Organization.

Andrews has been an integral part of public education in Davidson County for many years. He served as Tennessee’s first State Board of Education Chairman, and was the driving force behind the founding of the

Nashville Alliance for Public Education in 2002, which has secured and contributed more than \$11,500,000 in cash gifts and multi-year pledges from investors. Andrews and the Alliance have been, and continue to be, significant partners and contributors to MNPS.

About the TEA Distinguished Educator Awards Program

Each year, the TEA recognizes outstanding classroom teachers, administrators, education support professionals and higher education faculty members through the Distinguished Educators Awards program. Award winners are honored at a special luncheon each spring and presented before the Representative Assembly. The prestigious awards program originally began in 1982.

Metro Nashville Public Schools provide a range of educational opportunities to more than 75,000 students in Nashville and Davidson County. The governing body for MNPS is the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Board of Public Education, a nine-member group elected by residents of Metropolitan Nashville. For more information, please visit www.mnps.org.

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