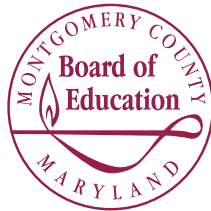


BOARD OF EDUCATION
TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL AWARDS
FOR

**Distinguished Service
to Public Education**

in Montgomery County



October 22, 2021
Program 6:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Welcome

Mrs. Brenda Wolff
President, Board of Education

Program

Members of the Board of Education

Closing Remarks

Ms. Karla Silvestre
Vice President, Board of Education

PURPOSE

The Montgomery County Board of Education established the Awards for Distinguished Service to Public Education in 1997 to recognize and show appreciation to individuals, groups, and organizations that have made exemplary contributions to public education in Montgomery County. This program is a celebration of all the award recipients who have dedicated their time and effort on behalf of public education and the children of Montgomery County.

2021 HONOREES

Community Individual

Byron Diaz

Susan Douglass

Kate Haydon

Community Group

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County

The Vaccine Hunters—Las Caza Vacunas

*(Tanya Aguilar, Kathleen Bartels, Dina Ciccone, Maisie Lynch,
Courtney Mason, Tania Perez-Fuentes, Maria Peterson, and Becky Taylor)*

Women Who Care Ministries

Business

Starbucks Coffee Company—Maryland Region

Montgomery County Public Schools Staff

Jeffrey Donald

Daryl Howard

Jennifer Lowndes

Robin McCue

Kenneth Nwocha

School Service Volunteer

Jessica Berrellez

Individual Pioneer

Morris Hudson

Jack R. Smith

Byron Diaz

Mr. Byron Diaz has a true heart for the work he does in the designated role of Family Case Manager with Linkages to Learning at Wheaton Woods Elementary School. However, he doesn't simply do the job within the organization, he offers skills and advocacy for direct needs and supports for the broader community by building strong relationships with those that he serves and with others he indirectly impacts. He is a trusted individual within the community, exhibiting commitment, vision, and fortitude for all those he seeks to serve.

In collaboration with EveryMind, Mr. Diaz has helped to implement the Family Empowerment and Improvement Institute across 11 sites. The purpose of the Institute is to help parents build their skill set and enable them to thrive and flourish. As a result of these opportunities, the families can support themselves, be role models for their children, and set goals for success. Ultimately, this empowers all family members and causes children to realize their dreams.

Mr. Diaz has taught English classes for adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learners to equip them with improved communication skills for employment and educational purposes; conducted cooking classes to ensure families recognize the importance of healthy meal planning and cooking and its wider impact on healthy brain and body function for improved learning; taught parents how to drive so that they have boosted confidence and expanded access to job opportunities; guided families on problem solving across basic life skills to enable them to feel a sense of pride and accomplishment; attended transition meetings to speak to the needs of students and families as they move to other schools; earmarked local services to ensure that families have what they need so they can feel successful in their daily living; and supported and championed families throughout MCPS.

Susan Douglass

For well over a decade, Dr. Susan Douglass has lent her expertise to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) staff, educators, and students in a variety of programs which have better equipped our schools to teach about Islam, Islamic culture, and Muslims. In addition to being a frequent speaker and host for MCPS Religious Literacy for Educators, she has also led workshops on Children's literature and advised on the MCPS World History curriculum.

Specifically, in the past three years, Dr. Douglass has hosted approximately 100 MCPS educators and provided presentations on the latest demographics of Muslims. Additionally, Dr. Douglass has presented children's literature workshops for Arab Heritage Month. Finally, Dr. Douglass led workshops for MCPS Social Studies World History teachers for the new curriculum, which allowed our educators to successfully and authentically teach about the role Islamic societies play in the MCPS curriculum.

Because of the tireless efforts of Dr. Susan Douglass, many high school teachers have been empowered with the content to teach about Islamic history. She has informed hundreds of MCPS teachers and staff about the root of misconceptions and hatred towards Muslims we find in the USA and additionally equipped hundreds of elementary teachers with literature they brought to their classrooms to allow their students to better understand Muslim-American classmates and families.

Kate Haydon

Ms. Kate Haydon, the Managing Director of Academy Development for the National Academy Foundation (NAF), has been an advocate for Career and Technology Education for more than 20 years. Ms. Haydon has focused on making sure that all students have opportunities, access to resources, and guidance as they pursue their career aspirations in high school. She has devoted her career to finding a better way to help more students identify their passions and apply those to a life-long career.

Ms. Haydon has actively engaged with the members of the Information Technology Foundation's (ITF) Board of Directors and has actively worked with program coordinators and staff to offer a diverse array of professional development opportunities. Ms. Haydon has been influential in the growth and development of the Academy of Information Technology (AOIT). Through her involvement, Ms. Haydon has ensured that industry partnerships, NAF certification, successful program completion, and rigorous instruction is available to all participants.

During the past five years, Ms. Haydon has made a concerted effort to enhance MCPS and NAF partnerships. Working at the district level, Ms. Haydon has provided MCPS staff with professional development opportunities related to the NAFTrack, a proprietary management program from NAF that aides in organizing scholarship, internship, dual enrollment, and other information respective to participation in NAF Academies. As a representative for NAF and working on behalf of the ITF, Ms. Haydon has worked to increase the presence of national partnerships within MCPS. Additionally, Ms. Haydon has worked closely with state leaders to ensure that IT programming throughout Maryland is rigorous and accessible to all students.

Ms. Haydon works diligently to ensure that opportunities, guidance, and education are accessible to students to ensure a successful beginning to their careers. Her dedication to "all means all" and her work closing the achievement gap through student participation in the NAF program makes Ms. Kate Haydon an exemplary awardee.

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County (LCMC) sustains and grows the social and economic equity of adults in our region through education and workforce training.

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County, Maryland, Inc. is a private, 501(c)(3) organization founded by Beth Kilgore in 1963. Originally founded solely as a volunteer-led tutoring program for native English speakers learning to read and write as adults, as the community grew and expanded, so did the need to diversify services. From that came the programs that offer instruction in English as a Second Language (ESL), General Education Degree exam preparation, workforce readiness, computer skills, and more.

During this past year, the LCMC has been working closely with MCPS to provide English Language Assessments for approximately 750 MCPS parents. They have hosted 33 LCMC online ESL classes to support an additional 750 MCPS parents; provided approximately 750 E-Books for MCPS parents and students; and supported ESL conversation support classes for another 750 MCPS parents.

The Vaccine Hunters—Las Caza Vacunas

Tanya Aguilar, Kathleen Bartels, Dina Ciccone, Maisie Lynch, Courtney Mason, Tania Perez-Fuentes, Maria Peterson, and Becky Taylor

During the pandemic, Tanya Aguilar, Kathleen Bartels, Dina Ciccone, Maisie Lynch, Courtney Mason, Tania Perez-Fuentes, Maria Peterson, and Becky Taylor are eight amazing full-time Montgomery County high school teachers known as “The Vaccine Hunters—Las Caza Vacunas” worked day and night to get Marylanders appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine. These educators are teaching and leading by example, locating surplus vials and safely forwarding the vaccines to Montgomery County vaccination sites while the vials are still usable. At the same time, these eight amazing MCPS teachers helped senior citizens register for the vaccinations, as the process could be complicated. The local, national, and international news media has been describing and praising their volunteer efforts “The Vaccine Hunters – Las Caza Vacunas” have brought early Covid-19 vaccines to eager Montgomery County seniors, and they have brought recognition for community service to Montgomery County Maryland...”.

Their volunteer efforts began in January 2021, with a focus on helping older adults grab the coveted appointments, alleviating transportation needs, as well as technological barriers. Now, as vaccine access has expanded, the Vaccine Hunters have shifted gears to meet the needs of the community, working to get appointments for Black and Latino residents in Maryland. The group has collected anecdotes of patient experiences with discrimination and profiling to help in its advocacy efforts.

As part of the group’s advocacy, they have pushed at the state and federal levels to have signage at the vaccine sites that state insurance or a specific form of documentation is not necessary to receive a vaccine. The group has lobbied local and state officials, companies like CVS and other groups working to ensure equity in vaccine access. They take firsthand accounts of discrepancies in access and push officials to do better. They are advocates, neighbors, and friends who are literally saving lives.

Women Who Care Ministries

Women Who Care Ministries (WWCM) is a faith-inspired, community outreach nonprofit based in Montgomery Village, Maryland. As the executive director, Ms. Judith Clark is a woman committed to doing God's work and loves helping people regardless of their beliefs. In addition to being the executive director, empowerment speaker, writer, poet and business owner, Judith Clark is an evangelist, a sister, a mentor, a joy coach, and a friend. Her humorous, upbeat, enthusiastic, passionate spirit is contagious. What people note as most significant about Ms. Clark is her philanthropic heart of love and service to the community. Ms. Clark is a woman of vision, direction, and purpose.

The primary mission of WWCM is to help hurting people overcome; primarily through offering safety net services to those who are low-income and need assistance with overcoming hunger. Currently, in its 15th year of operation, to date, more than 50,000 women men and children have attended the monthly meetings and conferences. Countless numbers have been impacted by the service areas the ministry provides assistance through and thousands of children and families have been assisted through WWCM's safety net services.

Under Ms. Clark's leadership, WWCM continues to grow into an even more vibrant outreach vehicle, geared towards community activities to help those who are homeless, in transition, incarcerated, broken in spirit, hungry, and to those who simply need a helping hand, in any way. Many are joining WWCM daily, in partnership, to ensure the needs and goals of this awesome ministry are met, but it all began with Ms. Clark. Today, we honor her and the Women Who Care Ministries.

Starbucks Coffee Company—Maryland Region

The Starbucks Coffee Company – Maryland Region (Starbucks), working with Feeding America, addresses hunger relief through employees’ engagement, in-kind support, donation of goods, and philanthropy. When the Montgomery County Public Schools Educational Foundation, Inc. (Foundation) was challenged to educate the public about unpaid school lunch debt and its impact on student attendance and wellbeing, the Foundation reached out to Starbucks for help with messaging.

Working with Jeffrey Danley (Sherwood High School Class of 1996), director, Regional Operations - Maryland, the Dine with Dignity Sticker Campaign was launched in the fall of 2018. From October 29, 2018, through December 2, 2018, Starbucks stores in Montgomery County placed a Dine with Dignity sticker on every cup dispensed to their customers. The sticker directed the customer to a mobile giving site and the Foundation’s Dine with Dignity web page.

The effort increased visits to the Dine with Dignity web page; raised funds for the Dine with Dignity Fund; generated funds sufficient to settle the unpaid Fiscal Year 2019 school lunch account balances for all Free and Reduced priced Meals Program (FARMS) students and 20% of non-FARMS students identified by MCPS staff as being students in need despite not participating in the FARMS program; engaged Starbucks employees in volunteerism beyond the sticker campaign; and established a partnership with Starbucks that continues.

The program has brought an ever-expanding base of support for Dine with Dignity resulting in more than \$182,000 being raised for the fund since its inception in 2018. The first year, the Foundation saw grass roots support from individuals and family foundations; the second year, institutions expressed interest in the program and the Foundation saw large gifts from county-based businesses. The support continued through the COVID-19 health crisis despite a remote learning environment. This is the kind of support and partnership that betters all of Montgomery County.

Jeffrey Donald

Mr. Jeffrey Donald is a skilled mindfulness practitioner and has a deep understanding of the corresponding scientific research that elucidates the effectiveness of mindfulness practices. His efforts to teach mindfulness practices have made a positive impact on dozens of schools, hundreds of teachers, and thousands of students in MCPS. Mr. Donald's work has had long-term positive impact on the mental health and wellness of the students that he worked with at Northwood High School. Mr. Donald became the county's first Mindfulness Coordinator. In that capacity Mr. Donald developed an extremely popular course for teachers called Mindfulness for Educators. This course has become a framework for mindfulness practices throughout the entire district. Jeff has trained hundreds of teachers to understand the importance of mindfulness and to engage in self-care practices. Students benefit greatly when teachers understand the importance of mindfulness practices and integrate it into their work with students. Mr. Donald teaches the course with kindness and understanding of the pressure that teachers face. He constructed a very academic curriculum but he differentiated expectations for work completion according to the teachers' abilities to submit assignments during a very stressful time. This created a very positive environment in the course. The teachers felt like they were nurtured and encouraged to actively experience mindfulness in order to develop their own mindfulness practice. Mr. Donald also focused on developing the teachers' capacity to incorporate mindfulness into their work with students. The course helped staff members to reduce their stress and anxiety and to increase resilience.

Mr. Donald's dedication to system-wide adoption of mindfulness practices addresses the social and emotional needs of students as they transition back into schools. Teachers cannot rely exclusively on old methods to address new problems. Mr. Donald has answered the call to adapt, innovate, and skillfully respond to an unprecedented crisis. Mr. Donald's leadership and service provide ways to leverage social and emotional wellbeing services in a way MCPS never has before. Mr. Donald's unwavering dedication demonstrated through his efforts to ensure that all of our students and staff thrive when they return to schools.

Daryl Howard

Since joining MCPS, Dr. Daryl Howard has made an outstanding impact on the educational community and has a passion for enlightening young people and supporting male educators of color. As a former school counselor at Montgomery Blair High School, he understands the importance of academic achievement, social emotional learning, personal relationship building, and mentorship, when it comes to supporting young men of color. An example of his commitment to these efforts was his leadership of the W.E.B. Dubois Honor Society, a school-based and national organization of largely African American high school students who were high achievers as well as servants to their communities. During his time in this role, Dr. Howard coordinated service activities, leadership and cultural experiences, and academic assistance that supported the achievement of over 500 scholars, with a particular mentorship focus on the 200 male members

Dr. Howard is an equity specialist in the Equity Initiatives Unit (EIU) of MCPS. As a member of EIU, he trains, coaches, and consults educators and students on matters of culture, race, and gender equity in education. Dr. Howard often highlights how recognizing implicit bias can reduce barriers to an equal and excellent education. His work and research interests include race and cultural proficiency, social emotional learning, and the triumphs and challenges of African American male students.

Dr. Howard is also instrumental in the work of the Building our Network of Diversity (BOND) Project, where he leads initiatives focused on the recruitment, development, retention, and empowerment of male educators of color. Through BOND, Dr. Howard also directs the BOND Learning and Leadership Institute for Young Men.

Through his teaching and direction, Dr. Howard has positively affected the academic, psychological, and physical wellbeing of hundreds of students throughout MCPS. Through his training and coaching, Dr. Howard has directly enhanced the knowledge and skills of hundreds of MCPS staff members. Dr. Daryl Howard is well deserving of this award.

Jennifer Lowndes

Principal Jennifer Lowndes exemplifies the commitment and dedication to her students that MCPS proudly declares as its focus, mission and duty. Ms. Lowndes created a culture of learning and love at Rock Creek Forest (RCF) Elementary School. She begins her weekly address to the community by saying “Your children are fabulous”, it rings with love, compassion, and sincerity from her. She shows her students they are fabulous every day with her actions, and we are grateful for her service to this community.

RCF has been a top tier performing school since she came on board, but the Spanish Immersion program specifically has made a huge impact on the Silver Spring community. We live in a very diverse area and students have been positively influenced by people of different cultures and backgrounds. But, the way Principal Lowndes leverages her ability to support language acquisition so our children can communicate more effectively and connect with each other, only adds to the positive lasting effects of attending RCF. Her own ability to speak both languages enables her to help so many families navigate the systems and find the best path for their children. Her contributions to the school and the community are undeniable.

When Principal Lowndes addresses her staff, students, and families, she exudes a warmth and care that permeates the entire culture of her school. While families struggle to figure out how to support their children’s learning, or even finding healthy and reliable food resources, and students feel exhausted and worn out, not being able to see their friends or play together closer than six feet, Ms. Lowndes forged a new path so all of these stakeholders feel connected and supported. She often reaches out to address issues with families directly, not allowing people to fall through the cracks of a large school system, and she never allows people to feel marginalized or under supported. Principal Lowndes is the example to others that service is a worthy enterprise, and people can help each other get through even the most challenging experiences.

Robin McCue

As a highly effective administrative assistant, Mrs. Robin McCue brings out the best in those around her and demonstrates an unwavering commitment and passion for the MCPS athletics program. This passion and love for her job is evident in all of her work, as she serves as an asset to both central services staff and school-based stakeholders. Throughout her work, Mrs. McCue interacts with high school athletic directors, middle school athletic coordinators, principals, coaches, parents, and students to support the overall mission of MCPS athletics. Additionally, Mrs. McCue effectively responds to a myriad of situations, involving multiple personalities and levels of complexities, in a calm and consistent manner. In doing so, Mrs. McCue has fostered positive relationships with stakeholders throughout Montgomery County and her genuine gusto for MCPS athletics serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and the school community.

Mrs. McCue's positive impact spans far beyond her work with MCPS and has played an integral role in the successful implementation of multiple county and state championships and athletic events. For over 16 years, Mrs. McCue also has served as the director of administrative operations for both the State wrestling and basketball tournaments. In this capacity, she has directly assisted the tournament director with all aspects of State championship administration. Additionally, the State Athletic Association has asked Mrs. McCue to serve as the secretary for the biannual Board of Control meetings, selecting her from a statewide pool of potential candidates.

Mrs. McCue exemplifies the vision, mission, and RAISE core values of the MCPS athletics program. It is apparent in all aspects of her work that she is committed to promoting athletics around the state and assisting to "RAISE" the standard of excellence across the program. Most importantly, Robin McCue acts with integrity, enthusiasm and has earned the respect of individuals around the state as an outstanding person and professional.

Kenneth Nwocha

One of the biggest ways that Mr. Kenneth Nwocha motivates his students is through encouraging participation in mathematics competitions and STEM clubs, as well as through recognizing hard work. Mr. Nwocha frequently notifies students about countywide math competitions and challenges students to aim for their fullest potential. He nominated students for countywide and national recognition in mathematics. He is a teacher who wants his students to work hard, to excel and to be recognized for their efforts. In this way, Mr. Nwocha never fails to motivate students to pursue a career in math and science. His sense of humor shines in his classroom and along with his practical approach to teaching, he shows that math is both comprehensible and enjoyable.

Mr. Nwocha was nominated by a student who stated “Mr. Nwocha is an outstanding teacher who goes above and beyond to ensure each one of his students is comprehending concepts”. He greeted his students every day and made his classroom feel welcoming. Mr. Nwocha’s room was always open for students to ask questions, or to simply eat lunch. His passion for teaching math is evident in the way he communicates with his students. Not only would he explain any missteps taken in solving a problem if students were having trouble, Mr. Nwocha was always willing to take a different approach in explaining problems to ensure that all of his students were comprehending math concepts. He uses acronyms in his teachings and made taking notes easy and effective. Mr. Nwocha always told jokes, while also being very devoted to improving each student’s mathematical capabilities.

Mr. Nwocha is a member of MCEA’s Council of Teaching and Learning, and volunteers his time to train new hires in MCPS. Mr. Nwocha is devoted to his work as a teacher and is an active participant in the school community. Overall, Mr. Nwocha has had a very positive impact on the community. He makes the learning environment more fun and gives students a passion to learn.

SCHOOL SERVICE VOLUNTEER

Jessica Berrellez

Jessica “Jess” Berrellez is a mom of three, a technologist, and an ‘equity innovator’ whose work has been featured in the Washington Post, CBS Evening News, ABC Evening News, Good Morning America, Today Show, and more. Ms. Berrellez founded an emergency food pantry that serves ten Gaithersburg school communities, organized 30 food distributions, launched a free student bike program to access free meals, and started a national movement to build desks for low-income students. Ms. Berrellez was recently named a Capital One Community Hero in recognition of her community service during the COVID-19 pandemic. She is the President of the Ridgeview Middle School Parent, Teacher, and Student Association (PTSA), a member of the MCPS Family Engagement Advisory Team and Deputy Superintendent Advisory Board, Latino Student Achievement Action Group Parent Co-Chair, and member of the MCCPTA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. She was awarded the Jaguar for Life Achievement Award for her contributions. She brings 20 years of Latina community volunteer work to her PTSA role and has a special interest in building a diverse pipeline of PTA volunteers and leaders.

Ms. Berrellez launched a Community Needs Assessment at the beginning of the school year that included surveys for parents, students, and teachers/staff to gather feedback from the community. She used this to shape a strategy for the year that reflected community interests and needs, including establishing a Health & Wellness Committee, Student Engagement Committee, and a Family Engagement Committee.

Ms. Berrellez launched the monthly Wellness Wednesday series to bring mental health and physical health educational programming to the Ridgeview and extended Quince Orchard High School Community; organized an open community forum with an expert panel for students, parents, and staff to learn about the COVID-19 vaccines and organized and distributed 50 basic needs kits for Ridgeview students. She worked with the Montgomery County COVID-19 Food Security Task Force and established a partnership with them to coordinate weekly walk-up food distributions. Additionally, she created three bilingual *WhatsApp* channels for the Ridgeview Middle, Jones Lane Elementary, and Thurgood Marshall Middle school communities. These *WhatsApp* channels have now become critical channels for sharing information and building community. Ms. Jess Berrellez is an amazing person who devotes her life to serving others and goes to great lengths to help others in need through creative ways.

INDIVIDUAL PIONEER

Morris Hudson

For the past 35 years, Mr. Morris Hudson has led the Brothers Academy, a local nonprofit organization which provides supports to MCPS students with exceptional mentoring services and with the slogan “Each One Reach One” as its guiding principle. The Brothers Academy provides mentorships to students enrolled at Gaithersburg High School and its feeder middle and elementary schools. Since its inception over 3,500 students have participated and benefited from inclusion in its program. In addition to individual mentorships, the Brothers Academy also focuses on community service projects to assist in the development of its members. Previous community service projects include coat and clothing drives, serving meals at local soup kitchens, participating in Foundation to Fight Blindness Vision Walks, and community food distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Brothers Academy has made numerous contributions to MCPS and its students by providing mentoring and academic support to its members, increasing student success in academic classwork, and by sponsoring tours to colleges and other post-secondary institutions. Through these activities, its members gain valuable experiences in the post-secondary application process. The participating students are positively impacted by the support provided to them from the adult mentorship as well as the short term and long term academic coaching. The school system is impacted as the results of the students increased engagement and performance both in the classroom and extracurricular involvement.

Mr. Morris Hudson has a long-term commitment to the students of MCPS and we appreciate his efforts and partnership.

Jack Smith

A dedicated lifelong educator, Dr. Smith has been a classroom teacher, principal, curriculum director, and a local superintendent of schools. Dr. Smith joined the Maryland State Department of Education as the chief academic officer for the Office of Teaching and Learning in August 2013. As the chief academic officer, Dr. Smith worked closely with local school systems, parents, businesses, teacher associations, institutions of higher education, and government agencies at both the state and national levels to ensure high-quality teaching and learning takes place in Maryland public schools. Dr. Smith's steadfast goal always has been to provide all students, regardless of their learning needs, race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status, with options and choices upon graduation.

Dr. Smith joined MCPS in 2016 and led the drive to improve equity in MCPS. During his tenure with MCPS, Dr. Smith oversaw the development of transportation infrastructure such as the transition to all electric buses as well as more cameras for security and seat belts, a total system boundary analysis, the revision of the student transfer policy, the grading scales, and incident reporting.

Among Dr. Smith's many illustrious awards and honors, he was named Maryland Superintendent of the Year in 2013, and he received the 2010 Charge Agent Award from the Maryland State Department of Education's Division of College and Career Readiness. Dr. Smith is a member of Leadership Maryland's Class of 2011, and he has served on a variety of volunteer boards. A graduate of Eastern Washington University, with a bachelor's in English and Communications and a master's in School Administration, Dr. Smith received his Ph.D. in instructional leadership from Notre Dame of Maryland University.

Today the Board awards him the Individual Pioneer Distinguished Service Award for his incredible leadership and dedication to Montgomery County Public Schools family.

PREVIOUS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

2020

Craig Koralek
Zoe Tishaev
Community Group
Building Foundations for the Future
Difference Makers
Pro Power Foundation
Volunteers in Science and Technology
DARCARS Automotive Group
Educational Systems Federal Credit Union
Elite Soccer Youth Development Academy, Inc.
Rina Chaves
Lana Haddad
Margaret "Peggy" Mannhaupt-Khoury
Richard "Dick" Lipsky, Ed.D.
VaRysa Williams
Anne Baldini
Sheila Chandler
Ruthanne Stoltzfus
Nancy Navarro
Elizabeth Spencer

2019

Romina Byrd
Byron Johns
Priscilla Fritter Peterson
Craig Rice
Kimberly Summers
Partnership for Excellence
Carol Trawick
Chaunetta Anderson
Sarah Fillman
Taylor Garber
Randi Gritz
Elizabeth Nardin
Sarah Delphus Neubold
Sean Pang
Lola Rogers
Laurie Terner
Osar Alvarenga and Sarahi Segura
Joan Paull
Marshal Greenblatt
Mike Michaelson

2018

Nancy Floreen
James Garratt
Daniel Riddle
Milagro Flores—Gaithersburg Mothers' Club
Kristen Eccleston
Sulma Flores
Genevieve Floyd
Matthew Johnson
Kevin Shindel
Barbara Woodward
Mary Gross
Karen Ward
Michael A. Durso
Odessa Shannon

2017

The Highwood Theatre
Code.org
Richard Reynolds
Kids in Need Distributors
Steven Boden
Michael Shpur
Carol Petersen
Nicholas Saadipour
Daman Harris
Lisa Büttner
Gary Temple
Patricia B. O'Neill

2016

Dottie Fitzgerald
Joe Hooks
Melissa McKenna
Montgomery County Business Roundtable
for Education
Bruce Crispell
Geoffrey Edgar
Patricia Janus
Fernando Moreno
Jeanette Simmons
Paul Geller
Anthony Giles
Larry A. Bowers

2015

Joe Kessler
Robert Thomas
Arthur Williams
Conflict Resolution Center of
Montgomery County
Liberty's Promise
Montgomery County Alliance of
Black School Educators
Passion for Learning, Inc. (Cynthia
Rubenstein)
Strathmore Education (Lauren Campbell)
Imagination Stage (Bonnie Fogel)
Stephanie Brant
Patricia Hurd
Mary Scott
James Lipton
Stuart and Marilyn Morrison
Sherry Reba
Emily Talaga
Isiah Leggett

2014

Susan Gardiner
Steve Peterson
Neal Wilson
Commonweal Foundation
Down Syndrome Network of
Montgomery County, Inc.
Carl Stein—RE/MAX Pro's Realty Company
Washington Area New Auto
Dealers Association
Leroy Hyson
Octavia Jeffries
Michelle Newton
Charles Overly
Kris Secan
Mario Parcan
Hank Heller

2012–2013

Richard Edelman
Larry Edmonds
Antonio Hernandez-Cardoso
Katya Partan
Savers, Inc.
Leo Schwartz
Michael Calvert
James A. Distler
Ronald Frezzo
Kevin Ambrose
Victoria Couch
Kelly and Thomas Giblin
Irene Coleman and Siham Eldadah

2011

Laurie and Steve Augustino
Pamela H. Moomau
Kaiser Permanente
Shulman, Rogers, Gandal, Pordy &
Ecker, P.A.
Whole Foods Market—Kentlands
Marla Caplon
Eric A. Davis
Denise Stultz
Tuyet B. Tran
Don Hauprich
Isabella Mia Lee
James McMann
Bruce Adams
Bonnie Cullison
Stewart Edelstein

2010

Samantha Lint
Kay Romero
Monte Tarbox
Montgomery County Students Information
Technology Foundation, Inc.
Potomac Valley Alumnae Chapter of Delta
Sigma Theta Sorority
Audubon Naturalist Society—GreenKids
Michael Priddy/Intervise Consultants, Inc.
Michael Campbell
Erick Lang
Joe Rubens, Jr.
Building Services Team
College Gardens Elementary School
Pamela Slater, Vivian Nation, George Powell,
Opral Samuels, Rico Wims, and
Yu-Lan Yinlin

2009

Officer Marcus Dixon
Emily McDonell
Admissions and Enrollment Management at
Montgomery College
Junior Achievement of the National Capital
Area Montgomery County District Office
Montgomery County Students
Construction Trades Foundation, Inc.
Deloitte
United Communications Group
Karen Crawford
Susan Freiman
Daric Jackson
Susan Marks
Linda Wanner
Bernard Warfield
John Burley
Mark Freedman
John William Smith

2008

Ana Brito
Thomas M. DeGonia, II
Patti Twigg
The Christ Episcopal Church of Kensington
College Tracks
PALA: Padres y Alumnos Latinos en Acción—
(Latino Parents and Students in Action)
Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.
Montgomery County Teachers Federal Credit
Union (MCTFCU)
Giles R. Benson
Andrea Bernal
James M. Douglas
Gail Fribush
Karen C. Woodson
Pat Adam
Anjan Choudhury
Joan Karasik
George B. Thomas, Sr.

2007

Joan Donovan
Evelyn Liu
Karen Benn Marshall, Ph.D.
Chinese American Parents and Students
Association (CAPSA)
IMPACT Silver Spring
Project Change
Jon Enten, Enten & Associates
Riderwood Village Retirement Community
Lockheed Martin Corporation
Aggie Alvez
Dianne Jones
Elaine Petrulakis
Michael A. Thomas
Aashish Dewan
Rebecca (Becky) Faherty
Paul Rockwell
Dr. Gabriel Jacobs

2006

Matt Boratenski and the American
Film Institute (AFI)
Choice Hotels International,
Office of the General Counsel
Julie Bennett
Glenn Kikuchi
Chinese Culture and Community Service
Center, Inc.
Montgomery County Police Community
Outreach Section
Project Reboot
Douglas Duncan
Robert Barnes
MCPS Green Building Program
Darryl Norwood
Diana Sayago
Bernice Albert
Robert Paulsen

2005

Mark Drury and Shapiro & Duncan
William Schlossberg and The Gazette
Art Billings
Nguyen Minh Chau
The African Immigrant and Refugee
Foundation
Conquista tus Sueños (Realize Your Dreams)
Hospice Caring, Inc.
William Porter
Michael Subin
Robert Barnes
Nivea Berrios
Virginia Bumblis
Susan Bain
David Lechner

2004

Gene Kijowski
Melvyn Leshinsky
Eileen Lavine
Identity, Inc.
Progress Club of Rockville
Rotary Club of North Bethesda
Ana Sol Gutierrez
Teresa Wright
Joseph J. Lavorgna
Jerry M. Marco
Joan Rackey

2003

AmeriDream, Inc.
Lockheed Martin Corporation
Dr. Yvette Butler
Theodore W. Urban
Linkages to Learning
Margit Meissner
Susan Barrett
Dedra H. Greene
James J. Laws

2002

Fitzgerald Auto Malls
Startec Global Communications
Esther P. Gelman
John Lopes
Ruby A. Rubens
The City of Gaithersburg
Interages
Mental Health Association of
Montgomery County
Blair G. Ewing
Joseph Howard
Owen Nichols
John F. Brooks, Jr.
Carol Burke
Richard Sprecher

2001

The Nellis Corporation
Nextel Communications
Dr. Alan Cheung
Diane Cockrell
Marina McKee
Career Transition Program of St. Luke's House
The Washington Opera
Lillian B. Brown
Robert Hines
Larry A. Bowers

2000

Wanda Brown of PEPCO
Elida Vargas-Carrasco
James and Linda Cafritz
Lois Stoner
Michelle Turner
Benjamin Banneker Honors Math
and Science Society
Hispanic Parents Committee at
Albert Einstein High School
Mary Ann Bowen
Lawrence Shulman
Richard Wilson
Betty Collins
Sandra Shmookler

1999

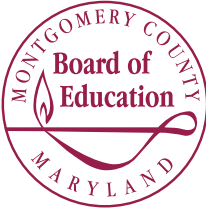
Pennie Abramson and Barry Scher of
Giant Food
GE Information Services
Ron Leung
Lois Robertson
Montgomery County Branch of the
NAACP Parents Council
After School Activity Coordination Program
(ASAC)
Gene W. Counihan
John L. Gildner
Ronald M. Feffer
Kevin Keegan
Madeline Griffin

1998

Douglas Schiffman
Montgomery County Students Automotive
Trades Foundation
African American Festival of Academic
Excellence
Sharp Street Hosts an Academic Resource
Program (SHARP)
Hanley J. Norment
Carol M. Hyatt
Samira Hussein
Phillip F. Gainous
Dr. Dawn Thomas

1997

Marriott Suites of Bethesda
General Electric Information Services and
Elfun Society
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
I. Austin Heyman
Hugh Packard
George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy
American Coalition for Assistance and
Mentoring Program (ACAMP)
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Lucille Maurer
Roscoe Nix
Gerard F. Consuegra
Amado "Sonny" Narvaez
Juanita Sweadner



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Equity*

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