



**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SPEF's 14th Annual Excellence in Education Awards Honors Gartner,  
Jack Bryant (Posthumously), plus 5 Extraordinary Stamford Educators**

**STAMFORD, CT – March 16, 2021** – It will be an evening of celebration and inspiration at the Stamford Public Education Foundation's 14th annual *Excellence in Education Awards*, where community leaders and educators will be honored for their commitment to public education. This year's event will take place virtually on **Thursday, March 25th, streaming from [www.spefct.org](http://www.spefct.org) from 6PM-7PM. [Complimentary tickets are available here.](#)**

The *Excellence in Education Awards Online Auction* will open on **Monday, March 22nd**, chock-full of great buys for mind, body, and heart! Event registrants will receive a link to the auction site.

At this year's Virtual *Excellence in Education Awards* Ceremony, SPEF is honoring leaders in education, volunteerism, and community giving. This year's award recipients are:

- **SPEF Leadership Award:** Jack Bryant (posthumous), being accepted on behalf of the family by his son Jamar Greene
- **SPEF Community Giving Award:** Gartner
- **SPEF Educator Award:** Five winners this year, announced the night of the event! (50+ nominations were received from SPS community members!)
- **Stamford Public Schools Teacher of the Year:** Donna Kaiser, Stamford High  
Finalists: Judy Anker, Stillmeadow; Ashley Porter Collins, Westhill High, and  
Spotlight Award Recipients

In addition, SPEF is pleased to announce that this spring, contingent upon safety guidelines, it is planning an outside gathering: the first ***Excellence Springtime Celebration*** at Mill River Park on June 6th. This outdoor festival will once again honor award recipients and SPEF supporters, and will feature music from students, dance performances, art exhibits, picnic fare, and more! More information will be found on SPEF's website: [www.spefct.org](http://www.spefct.org).

SPEF is especially grateful to the ***2021 Excellence in Education Awards*** sponsors for their support for public education, including:

**Title Sponsor:** NatWest

**Magna Cum Laude:** First County Bank; Henkel; Pitney Bowes

**Cum Laude:** Berkowitz & Hanna; Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey; Deloitte, Ferguson Library

**Honors:** Eleanor & Mort Lowenthal, Bob Phillips, PCM Fund, and the Stamford Bank & Trust.

**About SPEF:** Founded in 1996, the mission of the Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF) is to deliver educational programs and resources that elevate student, educator, and parent success by bridging the gap between needs in the Stamford Public Schools and resources in our community. The Foundation strives to enable each and every student in the Stamford Public Schools to graduate high school and enter college, career training, or fulltime employment ready to succeed. For further information, visit [www.spefct.org](http://www.spefct.org).

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