



**PRESS RELEASE
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**Excitement Builds for Stamford Public Education Foundation's
16th Annual Excellence in Education Awards**

Alice Knapp (Ferguson Library), Amy Beldotti (Stamford Public Schools), and Reading Is Fundamental honored for their unwavering support for Stamford Public Schools students

STAMFORD, CT—March 9, 2023— The Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF), which is dedicated to promoting equitable access to public education, today announced that tickets are on sale for the **2023 Excellence in Education Awards**. This annual fundraising event celebrates individuals and organizations that are dedicated to enriching the lives of students and families in Stamford Public Schools. It is taking place at the Stamford Marriott Hotel & Spa on **Thursday, April 27th**, starting at 5:30 p.m. [Tickets are \\$150 per person and are available at www.spefct.org](http://www.spefct.org). Sponsorships are also available, with information on the website, as well.

This year, the **Excellence in Education Awards** will honor three outstanding leaders who are committed to literacy and inspiring a passion for reading in all students. Recipients of the **SPEF Leadership in Literacy Award** are:

- **Amy Beldotti**, Associate Superintendent, Teaching and Learning, Stamford Public Schools
- **Alice Knapp**, Chief Executive Officer, Ferguson Library
- **Reading is Fundamental**

In addition, SPEF will announce the **SPEF Educator Award** winner the night of the event. This year, **22 educators were nominated** by the Parent-Teacher Organizations at their respective schools for their dedication to creating an exceptional learning environment for their students. All nominees will be acknowledged at the event and the recipient of the award will receive a \$1,000 donation for their classroom.

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The evening includes a presentation of the awards, as well as a networking reception featuring a silent auction and a tasting celebration of wine, beer, and specially selected hors d'oeuvres. All proceeds benefit SPEF's educational programs.

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 full-time employment ready to succeed. For further information, visit www.spefct.org.

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