



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SPEF's 16th Annual Excellence in Education Awards Honors
Extraordinary Literacy Leaders in Stamford Community**

STAMFORD, CT—April 20, 2023—It will be an evening of celebration as the Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF) presents its 16th annual Excellence in Education Awards. Community leaders and educators will be honored for their commitment to public education and literacy at this special event taking place on Thursday, April 27th at the Stamford Marriott Hotel & Spa from 5:30 to 8:00 pm.

SPEF is grateful to the top-tier sponsors that are demonstrating their dedication for students of Stamford Public Schools and SPEF's programming that supports them: NatWest (Presenting); Deloitte, Pitney Bowes (Magna Cum Laude); EXL, Garden Homes, Lucky8 TV, M&T Bank, Stamford Health (Cum Laude).

The evening will begin with a networking reception featuring performances from Project Music, hors d'oeuvres paired with wine donated by Domaine Bousquet and beer donated by Grade A Markets, a silent auction, and a 50/50 raffle.

At 7:00PM the evening will shift gears with the Awards Ceremony featuring the much-anticipated announcement of the winner of the **2023 SPEF Educator Award** winner. Twenty-two educators were nominated by the Parent-Teacher Organizations at their respective schools in recognition of the exceptional learning environment they have created for their students. The recipient of the award will receive a \$1,000 donation for their classroom/ learning environment. [A full list follows at the end of this media release.]

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In addition, the SPEF Leadership in Literacy Award will be presented to the following, for their commitment to literacy and inspiring a passion for reading in all students:

- **Amy Beldotti**, *Associate Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Stamford Public Schools*, in recognition of her steadfast commitment to Stamford Public School students and faculty.
- **Alice Knapp**, *CEO of Ferguson Library*, in recognition of her exceptional understanding of and support for public library service to children.
- **Reading is Fundamental**, in recognition of its commitment to a literate America and providing content that creates an impact in student lives.

Tickets for the Excellence in Education Awards are available by visiting www.spefct.org or calling 203-965-7733.

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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SPEF Educator Award Nominees:

Donald Barbour	Northeast Elementary School
Pamela Woodside	Davenport Ridge Elementary School
James Agostino	Toquam Magnet Elementary School
Kimberly Balch	Stillmeadow Elementary School
Simone Zwany	APPLES Pre-K Program
Alix Meza	Newfield Elementary School
Wendy Tang	Hart Magnet Elementary School
Chelsea Romaniello	KT Murphy Elementary School
Lindsey Lamb	Scofield Magnet Middle School
Kimberly Smith	Academy of Information Technology & Engineering
Andrena Forlenzo	Stamford High School

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Kristin Bivona	Rippowam Middle School
Mary Huminski	Julia A. Stark Elementary School
Jonathan Kolman	Strawberry Hill Elementary School
Patricia Kellogg	Roxbury Elementary School
Danielle Marenholz	Westhill High School
Tim Vale	Turn of River Middle School
Jeff Gruetzner	Springdale Elementary School
Peter Hadley	Cloonan Middle School
Joy Bodnar	Dolan Middle School
James Hart	Westover Magnet Elementary School
Michele Malave	Rogers International School