

## **Background**

Bonnie Schwartz considered teaching a privilege and an honor. She could think of no better way to leave an imprint on the world than to help young students discover and develop their own special talents.

A teacher of gifted and talented students at Thunder Hill Elementary School, Bonnie discovered her own niche and truly flourished once she became a teacher in 1993, according to her family and coworkers.

By no means an “easy” teacher, Bonnie believed students needed a challenge as well as encouragement to find that subject that would, in turn, make them flourish. With this in mind, the Schwartz family has established the \$500 *Bonnie Schwartz Excellence in Teaching Award* to recognize other teachers who spend each day trying to answer the question, “How do I get each child to do his or her very best?”

## **Eligibility**

Full-time or part-time teachers with at least five years of experience teaching in a public elementary school (grades 1-5) are eligible.

## **Nomination Criteria**

Nominees must be teachers who:

- instill in students a desire to learn and to achieve,
- understand the individual needs of students, encouraging their talents and fostering their self esteem,
- demonstrate a thorough knowledge of subject matter and the ability to share it effectively with students,
- foster cooperative relationships with their colleagues and their community, including parents of students, and
- demonstrate outstanding leadership.

## **Nomination Process**

- Only principals or vice principals of Howard County elementary schools may make a nomination, but **only one teacher from each school** will be considered.
- Nomination materials must include:
  - an application form completed by the principal or assistant principal including all nominee data
  - a completed checklist
  - two letters of support from fellow teachers and/or a principal or assistant principal

- a photograph of the nominee
- 2 additional copies of the complete application
- This form may be recreated or is available via email by contacting [info@columbiafoundation.org](mailto:info@columbiafoundation.org).

## **Nomination Process**

The Columbia Foundation board of trustees has established a Scholarship and Awards Committee of trustees, educators and other community leaders to conduct the evaluation process. Once they have selected an awardee, they will notify the principal of each nominating school and the awardee by letter.

**DEADLINE: July 17, 2009**

For more information contact The Columbia Foundation at 410.730.7840.

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

REC'D

BY:

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

DEADLINE: July 17, 2009

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- Either the principal or the vice principal may nominate a teacher, but only one teacher per school will be considered. Form should be completed by nominating administrator.
- This form may be recreated or is available via email by contacting [info@columbiafoundation.org](mailto:info@columbiafoundation.org).

**NOMINEE DATA**

**1. Personal**

Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr.:

Home Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Home Phone:

Home Email:

**2. Professional**

Current School:

Current Grade Level Taught:

Subject(s) Taught:

Number of years as a teacher in Howard County Public Schools:

Years as teacher:

**3. Academic**

College:

Degree Earned:

Major:

List any degree or certificate programs in which the nominee is currently enrolled.

**4. Awards, Achievements & Affiliations**

List nominee's professional association membership and staff development leadership activities, as well as any awards or other recognition the nominee has received.

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**Nominator Name:**

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Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr.

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Title:

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Address:

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City:

State:

Zip:

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Phone:

Email:

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**Submission Checklist**

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Yes No Has the nominee been a teacher for at least five years?

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Yes No Is the nominee certified in grades 1-5?

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Yes No Is your nominee the only nominee for your school?

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Yes No Does your application packet contain the nominating form as well as the answers to the essays typed in **12-point type**?

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Yes No Have you included a letter of support from a fellow teacher or school administrator?

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Yes No Have you included a photograph of the nominee?

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Yes No Will The Columbia Foundation receive the application no later than July 17, 2009?

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**If you answered yes to each question, mail your application to:**

*Bonnie Schwartz Excellence in Teaching Award*

The Columbia Foundation

10227 Wincopin Circle, Suite G15

Columbia, MD 21044

1. **Interaction with Students.** How does the nominee interact with students as individuals to encourage learning and provide a sense of deserved accomplishment?

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**PLEASE**

Do not type below this point.

Type your answers in 12-point type and do not exceed page limit.

2. **Working with others.** How does the nominee work with parents, faculty, staff and members of the community? Use examples of the nominee's efforts to work with others to improve the learning environment and to encourage students.

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**PLEASE**

Do not type below this point.

Type your answers in 12-point type and do not exceed page limit.

3. **Why do you consider this nominee excellent?** What is it about this teacher that you would like other teachers to emulate? How does this teacher go “above and beyond?” List some success stories and anecdotes that illustrate this person’s commitment to teaching.

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**PLEASE**

Do not type below this point.

Type your answers in 12-point type and do not exceed page limit.