

2013 Champions for Education Award Timelines, Description South Carolina School Boards Association



Purpose

To recognize community residents, organizations or local businesses/industries whose support of and contributions to public education have significantly benefited the entire school district or public schools statewide.

Recognition and Awards Process

Champions for Public Education award presentations are made locally, either as part of the board's regular meeting or at a special event in the district as determined by the local board by a member of the association's board of directors or senior staff. In addition to the special local recognition, news releases are provided to local media and others as requested by the winner. SCSBA may further showcase winning programs in SCSBA publications, on the SCSBA Web site and at Boardmanship Institute workshops.

Nominations are accepted quarterly using the following timeline for submissions and presentations:

- March 29, 2013 – deadline for nomination to SCSBA
- May 2013 – approval of Board of Directors
- June 2013 – presentation to award recipient(s)
- July 12, 2013 – deadline for nomination to SCSBA
- August 2013 – approval of Board of Directors
- September 2013 – presentation to award recipient(s)
- October 25, 2013 – deadline for nomination to SCSBA
- December 7, 2013 – approval of Board of Directors
- January 2014 – presentation to award recipients
- December 13, 2013 – deadline for nomination to SCSBA
- January 2014 – approval of Board of Directors
- February 2014 – presentation to award recipients

Eligibility

South Carolina residents of school districts are eligible as long as they are not employed or receive compensation for services by the school district (volunteer their time, talents, etc.). Nominees cannot include former or current school board members' service, responsibilities or activities.

Judging Process

Each entry is judged based on award's set criteria (see nomination form) and NOT against other school district entries. Nominees do not compete for a single award, as there could be multiple winners.

Entries are judged by members of the SCSBA Awards Committee of the SCSBA board of directors.

Once the entries are judged, the awards committee takes its final recommendations for approval to the association's board of directors at its next quarterly meeting (see timeline and recognition above).

Instructions

See nomination and award criteria form for instructions.

For more information contact:

Debbie Elmore, SCSBA communications director, 1.800.326.3679 or delmore@scsba.org

SCSBA Champions for Public Education Nomination & Award Criteria Form

(Attach form to supporting information, materials)

Name of School District Board: Aiken County Public Schools Date: July 11, 2013

Name of person, organization, business, etc. being nominated:

Cedar Creek Women's Club

If nominee is an organization or business, name of key contact person: Myra Toomajian

Address of organization, business or individual being nominated: 5379 Belle Mead Dr. Aiken, SC 29803

Telephone Number of nominee: 803-642-9896

Board member/district staff completing form: Sonya Colvin, Principal, Greendale Elementary School

Phone Number: 803-652-8170 (school) 803-645-7493 (cell)

District size Small (up to 2,999 students) Medium (3,000 – 8,999) Large (9,000+)
(used for demographic purposes only)

Board chairman's signature: _____
(certifies that school board supports nomination)

Criteria

Tell how your nominee meets the criteria listed below.

Use no more than one 8½ x 11 sheet for each criterion. Type double-spaced with a 250-word maximum per page.

Address each of the four criteria concisely and factually, with specific examples. Provide your nominee's name in the upper right-hand corner of each sheet.

1. Shows leadership in support either of ongoing or special programs authorized by the school board or SCSBA.
2. Actively demonstrates concern and effectively works for the betterment of the school district or for public schools statewide.
3. Understands public education's importance to democratic society and does his/her/its part to inspire support for quality public schools within the community or state.
4. "Makes a difference" for the entire school district or schools statewide because of his/her/its involvement.

Mail to

SCSBA Awards, 1027 Barnwell Street, Columbia, SC

1. Shows leadership in support either of ongoing or special programs authorized by the school board or SCSBA.

Through the years, Cedar Creek Women's Club has been a vital partner with Greendale Elementary School. They have provided needed money, materials, and volunteer hours. Last year they provided resources to help fund food backpacks to go home with our most needy students each weekend. The list is long but, the most amazing is what has developed this past school year through our partnership.

At the beginning of the school year, we witnessed the process of how commitment leads to success. This evolution involved having the right materials (research based), and the right people (highly qualified volunteers and dedicated teachers) come together at precisely the right time. The Cedar Creek Women's Club wanted to have a more direct influence on the education of the children of our community and set out to truly accomplish this goal. When the club's volunteer outreach leader heard of our school's need for support with small group literacy instruction, she immediately took this proposal to the members. The club began the process of training, observations, and placement within our school.

Their preparation was much deeper than the training we provided to them at the beginning. They took home professional articles to read and lesson guides to study. They reviewed research data on the internet on their own time. One of the volunteers has plans to attend the Clemson University Reading Recovery Summer Institute with the reading interventionist.

2. Actively demonstrates concern and effectively works for the betterment of the school district or for public schools statewide.

At Greendale Elementary School, we knew for this program to be successful, the volunteers would have to commit to coming to the school at least twice a week and be consistent in their attendance. Over a period of three months, we went each week to their Cedar Creek Community Building to train approximately twenty volunteers in the materials and methods that they would be using with our students.

During the training process, the volunteers came to Greendale Elementary School and observed teachers using these methods and materials within the classrooms. The goal was to have these volunteers to work with small groups of one to four students as a supplement to what the classroom teachers were already doing. The volunteers were encouraged to observe multiple times and in different grade levels.

After the training was complete, we had twelve volunteers working with approximately thirty students (1st-4th grades) at least twenty five hours each week. We anticipate that number to keep growing in the coming year. It is a winning situation for everyone involved. A greater number of students are receiving supplemental small group reading support, dedicated classroom teachers are finding partners in well-trained volunteers, volunteers are rewarded with seeing positive results of their commitment on a weekly basis, and we all have become teaching/learning multipliers.

3. Understands public education's importance to democratic society and does his/her/its part to inspire support for quality public schools within the community or state.

Many of the Cedar Creek Women's Club volunteers are retired educators. They have had experience ranging from preschool teachers to college professors. One volunteer even worked as an editor in a prominent educational publishing company and another as a children's librarian. They bring with them a wealth of experiences such as educational grant writing, textbook editing and developing programs for new teachers.

As a result of these varied experiences within the education field, these volunteers understand the urgency to give the children of our community the best education possible and the consequences that can result from not doing so. They have also seen many changes throughout their lives and know that it is necessary to adapt to the needs of an evolving global community.

It would be understandable for these volunteers to sit back and enjoy the benefits of their years of hard work. But, they are committed more than ever to give back to the community. They have the wisdom to know that the vital task of educating our children takes ALL of us.

4. “Makes a difference” for the entire school district or schools statewide because of his/her/its involvement.

Our supplemental reading program is of no cost to already stretched school and district budgets. In true education fashion, we are collecting data as we move forward with this approach to support our students. Preliminary data indicate increases in the reading levels of students receiving reading intervention services. We look forward to seeing this foundation success support gains on MAP, PASS and Smarter Balanced assessments in the future.

Our volunteers are also giving the classroom teacher another layer of support. Classroom teachers are faced with increasing demands and the challenge to equip every student to be successful. Now, not only do teachers have the means to provide additional small group reading instruction, but they also have the partnership support of trained volunteers working beside them toward a common goal.

The members of Cedar Creek Women’s Club are an inspiration to everyone at Greendale...teachers, administration, parents, and especially students. Even the youngest students notice the devotion of these volunteers who go well beyond what is expected of them.

The positive impact of the Cedar Creek volunteers has been noticed by administrators and leaders across the school district. Many have come to observe this volunteer model at work and have requested guidance in ways to replicate what we have at Greendale Elementary School. We are eagerly sharing this volunteer model with other schools in our district so that they too can make a difference.