

Hot off the press / MARCH 2014

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John Pepper presented the award that bears his name to V. Anthony Simms-Howell for his volunteering at CPS.



Photo by Roger Smith

Awards night reminds us...

Don't forget to thank a teacher

Whether encouraging their students to build paper gliders so as to comprehend the scientific principles of flight or to rewrite *Macbeth* with a touch of parody playfully threaded through the tragedy, the teachers celebrated at our 2014 Education Awards know how to inspire.

And, as Cincinnatus member John Pepper said in presenting one of the awards, they all “lifted and inspired” us as their stories were shared. At a time when teachers are too often blamed for the education system’s shortcomings, Awards Night was a reminder that teachers are among the system’s assets and the best teachers are its best asset. Many spoke not of taking a job, but of answering a call – as a minister might. They spoke of the thrill of seeing a child smile, of seeing a class coalesce and grasp some difficult

concept that had eluded them, and of hearing from a former student now succeeding in life.

Two quoted the same wise words of Aristotle, “Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all,” and it seemed no coincidence at all that, in a profession built around caring about our children, a timeless quote from the great philosopher would turn up twice.

The awardees also had some wisdom of their own to impart:

- A successful classroom is a balance of education and fun.

MORE ONLINE

▶ Read more about the awards on our web page.

WHAT DOES KENT FRIEL CALL \$1,400? A GOOD START...

EDUCATION PANEL'S FUND DRIVE FOR ELL IS ABOUT FINANCING A DREAM

You read about the idea in our previous newsletter, and you've heard about it from its advocate-in-chief, Kent Friel: Let's fund college scholarships in partnership with the English Language Learner (ELL) Foundation.

With the Education Panel, taking the lead, this effort has already raised over \$1,400. You can give online from our website or with a check. Contact **Kent Friel** or **Harry Blanton** to learn more.



MEMBERS-ONLY AREA GOES LIVE ON OUR WEBSITE TO KEEP US CONNECTED

Need to reach a fellow member, but don't have the contact info? You can look it up in the new Members-Only section of our website, which also offers access to association documents and resources.

You'll need a password. **Roger Smith** is setting those up. The user name and password will be unique to you.



FAREWELL TO E. GRANT HESSER, WWII VET AND CINCINNATUS MEMBER

Cincinnatus member E. Grant Hesser, 94, of Palm City, FL passed away peacefully in Dec.

Grant attended the U.S. Naval Academy and served in the Navy in the Pacific during World War II, achieving the rank of lieutenant commander. He lived most of his life in Cincinnati, where he was president and chairman of Maescher Industries, Inc. Our condolences to his family, including his son, Cincinnatus member Grant V. Hesser.

AWARDS/Cont'd from Page 1

- Teaching is not the kind of job where you go home at the end of the day and say, "Nailed it!" Each day builds on the next; a child's education is a perpetual work in progress. It takes time and dedication.
- Students can only succeed when they are allowed to fail.
- It's a blessing to be a teacher.

Common themes emerged, including that teachers matter and they love their work. But perhaps an unexpected common theme was our awardees reminding us that teachers often are professionals who sacrificed a career in some other profession – in the case of those honored this year, for example, business and law – that promised more money and status. But they were drawn to teaching and the opportunity to mold young lives.

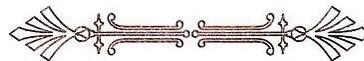
Maybe one of the awardee's assignments for her class says it all. She asks her students to answer in essays and posters, "If I could change the world..." **BRENDA CHILDS** of the Evanston Academy, where she has taught first, second and third grades, said she wants her students to know that they are never too young to think about how they might be a person who changes the world – maybe the next Aristotle or Shakespeare or Lincoln or King or Jobs. Ms. Childs was awarded the **Woodward Trust Distinguished Teacher Award**.

Brenda isn't just teaching her students. She's also teaching her colleagues. She sets a high standard for others to follow. As one of her nominators said about her, "Brenda Childs is a quintessential educator. From the moment she walks in the doors of Evanston Academy, Brenda is about the business of educating. She works tirelessly to ensure not only that every student is successful, she also ensures that each of the colleagues she mentors is successful. She has embraced the Common Core State Standards and disseminates this knowledge with finesse as we continue to navigate these new standards."

If that praise came from the head, another nominator spoke from the heart: "She is one of the most caring, loving individuals I have ever had the pleasure of knowing."

With teachers like Brenda Childs, it is no wonder

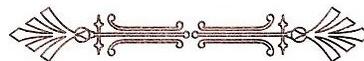
that, although many of Evanston's students come from poorer families, the school records impressive scores on state tests. The Ohio Department of Education classifies the school as "excellent," with 75% or more of students earned a score of "proficient or above."



Here are our other two winners, and a few words about the good work they are doing:

⇒ **JACQUELYN ROWEDDER**, principal, Academy of World Languages, Cincinnati Public Schools, winner of the **James N. Jacobs Outstanding Cincinnati Public Schools Administrator Award**.

Nominator comment: "AWL is a CPS magnet school for foreign languages and is a critical part of the resettlement process for hundreds of students from over 50 countries, including some in the most desperate condition around the world. It is not unusual for the students to be arriving unexpectedly just weeks after living in a refugee camp. Through the devoted and gifted efforts of Ms. Rowedder, we are about to ensure the conditions necessary to maximize learning and to support the successful transition of the students and their families to our community."



⇒ **V. ANTHONY SIMMS-HOWELL**, who volunteers for CPS, winner of the **John E. Pepper Award for Outstanding Volunteers**.

Nominator comment: "Mr. Simms-Howell is very involved with our Early Childhood Department. He advocates for CPS at the state level and is truly passionate about the English as a Second Language students. Recently, Tony was instrumental in arranging tutors for our Guatemalan students." Added another: "Volunteering is a way of life. He restricts his time to those organizations whose policy provides opportunities that improve the quality of life for individuals, their families and their communities.... He is a very strong advocated for early childhood education in CPS. He never waivers in voicing his passion for public and private funding for education."

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS ...

Kathy Comisar (Dec), Gary Greenberg & Jill Schiller (Jan) and Kristine Frech (Feb).