

Since early 2020, the entire world has been impacted in the way normal everyday life is conducted. The worldwide pandemic has changed our lives in almost every aspect. Educators and those that help fuel the minds and hearts of students are yet grappling with the fundamental question: How do we continue the intellectual process and give our children hope?

Educators, and those who offer support services to our children, waded in and steadied the course to provide some normalcy by continuing to teach our children in the midst of uncertainty and endangerment to their own lives. Teachers, administrators, and volunteers have shown their resilience, creativity, and determination in keeping the learning process going amid adverse conditions.

We have witnessed the worn eyes of administrators who work to create alternatives for bringing students into the schools; educators who work tirelessly to prepare and deliver instructions for multi-learning environments; community resource leaders reaching out to family members and community to provide resources; and countless volunteers supporting the work of educators.

While it was our hope to recognize and honor six Outstanding Educators during the Cincinnati C3 Education Awards banquet scheduled for February 2022, only a few nominations were submitted. We believe that potential nominators looked around and saw that there were many “Outstanding” educators making extraordinary contributions in this “more than unusual” time and thus had great difficulty in narrowing the field to just a few. We also recognize that typically many nominations come from other professionals engaged in the educational process, and as such were unable to submit nominations due to the strain the entire profession is under. Given this, we have decided to not hold the banquet this year and proceed with continuing to gather nominations for an awards ceremony in February 2023.

While the awards ceremony will not take place this academic year, we salute and honor all teachers, administrators, volunteers, and student teacher mentors for their outstanding, creative contributions as well as their passion and commitment to our students and our future. We look forward to celebrating these professionals and community members for the work they do changing the lives of children and adolescents, and in making our Greater Cincinnati community a better place!