

## **Excellence in Mathematics & Science Teaching Awards 2010 Nomination Packet**

The Cortopassi Family Foundation is proud to announce their Excellence in Mathematics & Science Teaching Awards Program. The Foundation wishes to recognize outstanding secondary (middle and/or high school) mathematics and science teachers by bestowing upon them the Cortopassi Family Foundation Excellence in Mathematics & Science Teaching Awards. These awards will be given to one mathematics teacher and one science teacher who teach within San Joaquin County.

The recipients will each receive \$5,000 from the Cortopassi Family Foundation to use as they wish. Awardees and their guests will be honored at the San Joaquin County B-C Science Olympiad Finals at the Scottish Rites Building in Stockton on March 6, 2010. The schools in which the recipients teach will also receive a cash award of \$5,000 each for the enhancement of their respective departments.

This program will recognize distinguished mathematics and science teachers who motivate students to excel, support students in their academic pursuits both in and outside the classroom, provide leadership in curricular and co-curricular events, and encourage students to pursue a career in mathematics and/or science.

### **Eligibility**

In order to be eligible for consideration, nominees must:

- Be excellent classroom teachers.
- Be full-time employees of their school district.
- Have at least two years of mathematics or science teaching experience.
- Teach mathematics or science at the secondary level (grades 7-12).
- Teach at a public school (including charter schools) within the boundaries of San Joaquin County.
- Past winners are not eligible.

### **Nomination**

Teachers may be nominated by their principal, other school administrators, department chairs, colleagues, students, parents or other members of the general public. The person making the nomination needs to submit the nomination form (attached) and three letters of recommendation to Dr. Gary F. Dei Rossi, Assistant Superintendent at the San Joaquin County Office of Education by 5 pm on Thursday, January 28, 2010. The mailing address is: P.O. Box 213030, Stockton, CA 95213. The physical location is 2707 Transworld Dr., Stockton.

Tentative Timeline:

- January 28th applications due
- February 12th Finalists announced
- February 27th Finalists interviewed
- March 1st Recipients announced
- March 6th Award ceremony

## Three Letters of Recommendation

The letters of recommendation are an integral part of the nomination package. They can be from an administrator, a colleague, a student, or a parent but no two may be from the same group. The letters may not exceed 2 pages, must use a 12-point font, must be written on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, have at least 1 inch margins all around, and should be on letterhead if available. The letters should be addressed to the Cortopassi Family Foundation Excellence in Mathematics & Science Teaching Awards Selection Committee. Three letters of recommendation (along with the nomination form) must be received by Dr. Gary F. Dei Rossi, Assistant Superintendent at the San Joaquin County Office of Education by 5 pm on Thursday, January 28, 2010. The mailing address is: P.O. Box 213030, Stockton, CA 95213. The physical location is 2707 Transworld Dr., Stockton.

In order to accurately assess each candidate's qualifications for these prestigious awards, the letters should address those attributes below that the writer believes best illustrate the candidate's abilities. Specific examples will assist the judges in the selection process.

This teacher:

- Displays excellent classroom organization and management skills.
- Varies instructional strategies to meet the needs of all students.
- Communicates high expectations to all students.
- Promotes high standards of performance.
- Emphasizes conceptual understanding.
- Presents mathematics or science as constantly evolving rather than static bodies of established facts.
- Establishes rapport with and gains respect of students.
- Motivates students to succeed.
- Uses assessment to inform instruction.
- Works effectively with the most challenging students.
- Inspires colleagues to be the best they can be.
- Communicates effectively with administration and parents.
- Extends learning beyond the classroom.
- Continues to grow professionally.
- Works effectively with students as an academic coach or club advisor.

**Selection Criteria:** the selection committee is looking for the following qualities:

- Is highly motivated and an excellent classroom teacher.
- Demonstrates high skill and knowledge of teaching.
- Inspires other teachers to be the best they can be.
- Is committed to high standards of performance.
- Exemplifies professionalism at all times.
- Has students who show academic improvement.
- Is involved in school activities.
- Is involved outside the classroom in academic events.
- Works beyond the call of duty.

For any questions or additional information please call Dr. Gary F. Dei Rossi at 468-9027 or email him at [gdeirossi@sjcoe.net](mailto:gdeirossi@sjcoe.net).