

29th Annual Academic Achievement & Professional Development Awards



Grow & Lead Community and Youth Development





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Congratulations

Congratulations, award recipients!

Tonight, we are honoring three sets of recipients:

- The top 47 graduating seniors in Marquette and Alger Counties. They have achieved great success and have bright futures ahead of them.
- Teachers who have been selected by students because of the influential role they played in their academic success.
- Outstanding educators that have been selected by their school districts to receive awards for additional education or special projects in their classrooms.

Our vision at Grow & Lead is for all Upper Peninsula youth to thrive. We work with schools, nonprofits and communities to create a culture that builds on the strengths of young people.

Excellence in Education Week was established in 1994 as one way to bring the community together to honor our young people and recognize the adults that support them.

Thank you, families and friends for supporting the efforts of these outstanding students and educators.

Any Quinn

CEO, Grow & Lead: Community and Youth Development



Monday, April 25, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. Northern Center Northern Michigan University, Marquette

Opening Comments & Welcome

Amy Quinn, CEO Grow & Lead: Community and Youth Development Natalie Blanck, 2022 Westwood High School Scholarship Recipient

Masters of Ceremony

Recognition of Donors and Sponsors

National Anthem and Music Presentation

Educator Reflections

Keynote Speaker

Presentation of Student and Educator Awards

Adjournment

Ishpeming High School Concert Choir Dr. Donna Schaffer, Director

Blue Cross Blue Shield Upper Peninsula

Meagen Morrison, Social Responsibility Advisor

Robert Luke, Sales Manager

Eagle Mine

Amy Anderson, Former Influential Educator Gwinn Area Community Schools

Kyle Aho 2010 Gwinn High School Scholarship Recipient

Principals and Superintendents

PRESENTING SPONSORS



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4 Excellence in Education

STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT & INFLUENTIAL EDUCATOR SPONSORS









KENDRICKS BORDEAU KEEFE SEAVOY & REILLY, PC

– Attorneys at Law –













Excellence in Education 5



KYLE AHO

Kyle Aho was born and raised in Gwinn. He graduated from Gwinn High School in 2010. As an Excellence in Education scholarship recipient, he says he still appreciates his influential educator, Amy Anderson, whom he had for several classes including biology and anatomy.

Kyle attended Alma College, where he was a four-year starter and senior captain of the men's basketball program. He graduated in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in integrated health sciences. In college, he met his wife, Autumn, also an Alma College graduate. Following graduation, Kyle remained with the Alma College men's basketball program as an assistant coach while attending Central Michigan University in the physical therapy program. He earned his Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree in May of 2017.



Following graduation, Kyle joined the team at Active Physical Therapy and served as the clinic director in outpatient orthopedics for four years. During that time, he and his wife

continued to grow a real estate investment company that they started in 2010. It has become their fulltime role with the mission of changing the culture of attainable housing in Marquette County. In his spare time, Kyle enjoys spending time with Autumn and their nearly two-year-old son, Vince, and leading the boys' basketball program at Gwinn High School.



AMY ANDERSON GWINN AREA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Amy Anderson is a Negaunee native and life-long U.P. resident. She is a graduate of Negaunee Public Schools and completed her post-secondary education at Northern Michigan University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology in 1992, a teaching certificate in 1994, and a Master of Arts in Education degree in secondary education in 2001. After a fulfilling and rewarding career as a science teacher at Sault Ste. Marie Middle School (1995-1999) and Gwinn High School (1999-2020), Amy is now working with college freshmen as a contingent faculty member in Northern Michigan University's Department of Chemistry. In her free time, Amy enjoys traveling with her family, reading, and being outdoors.



2022 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

BURT TOWNSHIP SCHOOL



Laurynne Christian, child of Pat and Angela Burns, receives the Scholarship in Honor of Frank and Ruth Mead. Laurynne selected Dixie McCormick, high school English teacher as most influential educator stating "Mrs. McCormick has helped me become a better student by teaching me how to push myself to succeed." Laurynne will attend college and pursue a career in nursing or medical imaging.



GWINN AREA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Brittany Desotell, child of Eric Ouelette and Christine Daugherty, receives the Catherine A. Kroll and Michael Prokopowicz Scholarship. Brittany has chosen Kyle Hantz, middle and high school band teacher, as most influential educator sharing "He taught me to believe in myself. He also taught me to laugh at myself." Brittany will be taking certified nursing assistant classes this summer and then plans to attend the Bay College nursing program to become a registered nurse.





Jordana Hardy, child of Justin Hardy and Rebecca Barrett, is presented with the William Olson Family Scholarship and selected Michael Nicosia, middle and high school woodshop and building trades teacher, as most influential educator saying "He's the one teacher I know I can turn to for absolutely anything, and he makes the classroom an amazing environment." Jordana will attend Michigan Technological University to study civil engineering and plans to build and improve infrastructure such as roads and bridges.





Keegan Woods, child of Matthew Woods and Amy and John Kimsel, receives the Honor Credit Union Scholarship and honors Leela Heinzel, middle and high school algebra teacher, as most influential educator stating "She helped me step out of my comfort zone and had high expectations of me." Keegan will attend the University of Michigan and plans to become a dentist.



ISHPEMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Abigail Bruhnke, child of Robert and Gwen Bruhnke, receives the Francis and Genevieve Tousignant Memorial Scholarship. Abigail chose Jodi Crist, middle school language arts and 12th grade personal living teacher, as most influential educator noting "Ms. Crist has always emitted a sense of compassion, understanding and warmth in all of the years that I had the pleasure of knowing her. Her method of teaching is very inclusive of everyone's needs and focuses on real-life skills." Abigail will attend Northern Michigan University to major in secondary music education and hopes to teach music in Ishpeming or another Upper Peninsula school.





Hannah DeLoughary, child of Kevin and Beth DeLoughary, is presented with the Scholarship in Honor of Dorothy and William "Bee" Sivula and honors Marcia Pruett, kindergarten teacher, as most influential educator stating "Mrs. Pruett was my first teacher. She taught me the basics of everything. I've built upon those things and will continue to do so for the rest of my life. If I didn't receive that proper start to my education, I wouldn't have been as academically successful as I am today." Hannah will attend college to pursue a business degree and plans to open a photography business.





Elisabeth Gracyalny, child of Travis and Jenny Gracyalny, receives the John and Ruth Marietti Memorial Scholarship and chose Corey Stiles, high school English teacher, as most influential educator noting "He is an amazing teacher and he makes learning fun. I always look forward to his class." Elisabeth plans to attend college and open a small business.





Megan Racine, child of Sean Racine and Amy McCormick, receives the Susan Chinn Memorial Scholarship. Becky Bertucci, high school Spanish and functions, statistics & trigonometry teacher, was chosen as most influential educator. Megan shares "She is very optimistic and her positive attitude makes learning fun and easy. She also engages with all of her students and is always super helpful." Megan will attend college to study veterinary nursing and work with animals.

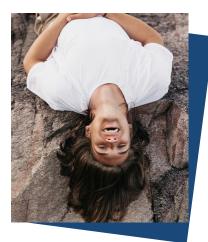




Savannah Salmi, child of Shane Salmi and Jennifer Pennell, receives the Snyder Drug Scholarship and chose Dennie Korpi, middle and high school band teacher, as most influential educator stating "I look up to him. He's like another grandfather. He's taught me everything that I know about music." Savannah will study at Northern Michigan University and plans to become an automotive technician.



MARQUETTE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Harrison Anthos, child of Tom and Kaylie Anthos, receives the Mining Journal Scholarship and chose Ruth Robb, high school teacher, as most influential educator sharing "She reminds me to stay young. She taught me how to live intentionally and keep my eyes open to new experiences." Harrison plans to pursue a career in ethical hacking and data security.





Abigail Bergmann, child of Tim and Jodie Bergmann, is presented with the Range Bank Scholarship and is honoring Kelly Valensky Lenaghen, middle school algebra teacher, as most influential educator. Abigail has known her for most of her life, and they have worked together in and out of the classroom. Abigail will major in biochemistry and minor in environmental sciences and plans a career doing research and protecting Earth and its organisms.





Amelia Bishop, child of Todd and Jennifer Bishop, receives the John M. Longyear Scholarship and chose Jan Brodersen, high school choir teacher, as most influential teacher stating "She is incredibly supportive and motivates me to grow in music and in life through her honesty and advice." Amelia will study history and politics at the University of Oxford in the U.K. and plans to pursue a career in diplomacy or law.





Kai Carter, child of Shane Carter and Quintesa Crawford, is presented with the Joe & Pat Blake Family Scholarship and chose Roger Bentlage, pilot mentor and Rotary Club member, as most influential educator sharing "Roger gives me the courage, confidence and connections I need to pursue my dreams that wouldn't be possible otherwise." Kai will study linguistics or anthropology in Germany and will pursue a career as translator or ambassador abroad and will also continue with art and music.





Torrey Cookman, child of Robb and Becky Cookman, receives the Marquette Community Federal Credit Union Scholarship and selected Wendy Hill Manson, high school biology teacher, as most influential educator stating "Mrs. Hill Manson pushed me to grow and adopt good habits that I will use throughout my education." Torrey will attend college to study mechanical engineering and would like to design and work with sustainable energy systems.





Lexi Danielkiewicz, child of Kirk and Debbie Danielkiewicz, receives the Scholarship in Honor of Rev. Msgr. Jed Patrick and honors Matthew Ludwig, high school band teacher, as most influential educator noting "Dr. Ludwig has not only helped me to grow as a musician, but has also taught me valuable life lessons in the process, as well as having shown me what it takes to be successful at anything I do." Lexi will pursue a degree in pre-veterinary medicine and plans to become a large animal veterinarian.





Dakota Farwell, child of Frank and Laura Farwell, is presented the Melanie J. Pence Rohr, J.D. and Dr. Steven L. Pence, Jr. Scholarship and names Rachel Pomeroy, high school geometry and AP physics teacher, as most influential educator because she helped Dakota "understand physics nicely which is needed in order to be an engineer." Dakota will study electrical engineering and political science and pursue a career in clean energy and implementation.





Alexa Guindon, child of Paul and Rachel Guindon, receives the Rotary Club of Marquette Exemplary Rotarian Burt Sparhawk Scholarship and selected Karl Thomsen, high school algebra teacher, as most influential educator stating "Mr. Thomsen consistently challenged me in exciting ways, made me feel comfortable with being wrong and excited to always try again." Alexa will study biochemistry at Northern Michigan University and plans for a career in medical research relating to the human microbiome.





Brooklyn Michelin, child of Clint and Jennifer Michelin, is presented with the Reijo Aho Scholarship and named Wendy Hill Manson, high school biology and AP biology teacher, as most influential educator sharing "She helped me discover my interest in biology and inspired me to pursue a career in the sciences." Brooklyn will attend the University of Michigan to study biology or molecular, cellular and developmental biology and plans to pursue a career within academia.





Maria Millado, child of Cliff and Frances Millado, receives the Thomas Baldini Scholarship and selected Ronda Manninen, high school health occupations teacher, as most influential educator stating "I love her class and her teaching styles, lessons and personality." Maria will attend University of Michigan and is considering a career in the medical field or in the environmental sciences.





Triumph Ngafeeson, child of Madison and Claudia Ngafeeson, is presented with the William and Carol LaVallie Scholarship and chose Kim Stadt, high school English teacher, as most influential educator stating "Ms. Stadt is an amazing teacher who helped me grow my writing skills, a light to all her students and she made me smile every day." Triumph will pursue a degree in business and plans to become a successful businesswoman and speaker to young adults.





Michael Salo, child of Craig and Annemarie Salo, receives the Lincoln and Anne Frazier Memorial Scholarship and honors Blythe Raikko, high school AP U.S. history and AP government teacher, as most influential educator stating "Ms. Raikko is a fantastic teacher that prepared me well for AP exams." Michael will attend Michigan State University to study finance and plans to work in private equity or financial advising.





Aiden Swanson, child of Chris and Kay Swanson, receives the Katherine Thurner Memorial Scholarship and selected Ronda Manninen, high school anatomy and health occupations advisor, as most influential educator sharing "She has helped prepare me for my career in medicine and given me many valuable opportunities to explore a future career." Aiden will attend University of Michigan to study biological sciences and plans to work in a medical health care related field.





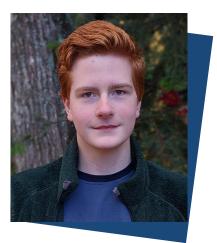
Axel Vermaat, child of Maarten and Kathleen Vermaat, receives the UP Health System Scholarship and chose Natalie Messano, high school chemistry and AP chemistry teacher, as most influential educator sharing "Ms. Messano is a great teacher in a hard class that prepared me for college." Axel will attend college and pursue a career as an economist or politician.





John Weber, child of Karl and Peggy Weber, is presented with the Scholarship in Memory of Rev. Msgr. Louis G. Cappo. John selected Ben Smith, high school AP statistics teacher, as most influential educator sharing "Mr. Smith is a positive and outgoing person as a teacher and as my golf coach." John will attend the University of Michigan Ross School of Business and plans to work in investment banking.





Benjamin Wedin, child of Robert and Bitsy Wedin, receives the Gadzinski Family Scholarship. Benjamin selected Chris Thoms, middle school teacher, as most influential educator noting "Mr. Thoms encouraged me to be the best student I could be." Benjamin will attend college and plans to improve the world through science or technology.



MUNISING PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Madeline Cole, child of Richard and Mandy Cole receives the Richard and Mary Bowerman Scholarship and chose Mandy Frantti, high school STEM teacher, as most influential educator sharing "She taught me more than any other teacher and was genuinely excited to teach. During some of my lowest moments she was there for me and truly cared about how I was doing." Madeline will study premed at University of Michigan and plans to work as a surgeon.





Maci Cornish, child of William and Jennifer Cornish, receives the Neenah, Incorporated Scholarship. Maci chose Mandy Frantti, high school applied physics and physics teacher, as most influential educator and notes "Ms. Frantti has helped me learn that STEM is truly what I want to do for the rest of my life. Her physics classes were so much fun." Maci will pursue a mechanical engineering degree at Michigan Technological University and plans to work in research and development, specializing in engine design.





Valerie Johnson, child of Jamie Johnson and the late Barry Johnson, receives the Hiawatha Communications Incorporated Scholarship. Valerie selected Jim Cotey, high school algebra and chemistry teacher, as most influential educator stating "Mr. Cotey is always willing to help me with homework, even if it's for another subject. He makes it a point to have a conversation with me every day, even though I don't have a class with him this year. His kindness and great sense of humor always put me in a good mood." Valerie will attend college and is currently exploring options for a career that brings enjoyment and includes travel and providing for family.



NEGAUNEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Emily Gauthier, child of Jason and Laura Gauthier, is presented with the Robert & Rena Koskey Scholarship and chose Krista Squiers, middle school science teacher, as most influential educator sharing "Miss Squiers is a phenomenal person who has influenced me in many different ways. She encouraged and developed my curiosity in the classroom and helped me find my love for science. She is a symbol of positivity and encouragement, reminding those around her to be themselves." Emily will pursue a degree in biomedical engineering and plans for a career in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine.





Alyssa Hill, child of John Hill and Danielle & Robert Cleary, receives the Sydney W. Northey Memorial Scholarship and has named Krista Squiers, middle school science teacher, as most influential educator stating "When I first moved to Negaunee, Ms. Squiers was the first person to truly make me feel welcome. She taught me to grow and adapt to what life throws at me, but to never change my heart." Alyssa will attend Bemidji State University to major in accounting and play on the women's basketball and track & field teams, with plans to become a certified public accountant and open her own firm.





Mara Sorensen, child of Dave and Gina Sorensen, is presented with the Renee Thomas Memorial Scholarship. Mara chose Sherri Holmgren, high school biology and advanced biology teacher, as most influential educator noting "Ms. Holmgren's kindness, enthusiasm and ability to make every lesson engaging have inspired my plans for the future." Mara will major in medical laboratory science at Michigan Technological University and plans to work in a clinical lab or research facility.





Tessa Standerford, child of Chris and Abby Standerford, receives the TruNorth Federal Credit Union Scholarship and chose Bill Ellerbruch, high school calculus and physics teacher, as most influential educator sharing "He always encouraged me to ask questions, (whether they relate to class content or not) and allows for friendly debate, all while teaching problem solving and perseverance." Tessa will attend Northern Michigan University to double-major in environmental science and sustainable business and enterprise creation and will pursue a career that includes environmental research and travel opportunities.





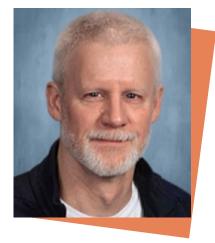
Josephine Thomson, child of Patrick Thomson and Jill Miller, is presented with the Scholarship in Memory of Saima Kuivila and has named Gina Sorensen, high school English and poetry teacher, as most influential educator stating "Mrs. Sorensen always has believed in me unlike any other teacher. She has supported me in everything and has told me the raw truth. Her strong and passionate personality helped shape me into who I am and hope to be. I'm thankful for everything I've learned from her." Josephine will attend Michigan Technological University to major in biochemistry or pre-med and minor in business and plans to be an entrepreneur and leader in the genetics research and technology field.



NICE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Natalie Blanck, child of Kevin and Heidi Blanck, receives the Brian L. Joseph Memorial Scholarship. Natalie chose Steve Annelin, high school mathematics teacher as most influential educator and shares "He taught me about maturity and to be a leader. He also taught me that if you make a mistake, just blame it on the day of the week." Natalie will study sports science at Northern Michigan University and pursue her Masters in occupational therapy at Michigan State University with plans to become an occupational therapist or physician's assistant.





Kalle Keranen, child of Jason and Kate Keranen, is presented with the Ishpeming Kiwanis Club Scholarship, and honors Ronalyn Arseneau, high school business law and entrepreneurship teacher, as most influential educator stating "Ms. Arseneau introduced me to the world of business and inspired me to pursue something I never would have even considered before having her as a teacher." Kalle will attend Michigan Technological University to study marketing and business administration with plans for a career as a marketing executive in the sports industry.





Jillian Koski, child of Jared and Renee Koski, is presented with the Cory Nelson Memorial Scholarship and chose Ronalyn Arseneau, high school business teacher, as most influential educator stating "Her classes have inspired me to pursue a degree in business. She has guided me in Business Professionals of America competitions which have made me a national champion." Jillian will attend Michigan State University to study business before attending law school to become an attorney.





Sarina Maki, child of Dan and Sandy Maki, is presented with the Scholarship in Honor of Charles and Lois Smith. Sarina selected Maria Young, high school honors English teacher sharing "She created a safe environment to learn and grow, not only as English students, but as individuals." Sarina will pursue a degree in outdoor education at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, and plans to become a summer camp director.





Daniel Ostola, child of Dan and Rochelle Ostola, receives the UP Health System – Bell Medical Staff Scholarship and chose Eric Hill, high school world history and government teacher, as most influential educator sharing "Mr. Hill is very relatable, easy to talk to and gives the best advice on anything you need." Daniel will attend Northern Michigan University and pursue his doctorate in sports medicine and kinesiology with plans to become a sports physician and physical trainer for collegiate and professional athletes.





Natalie Prophet, child of Jeff and Dana Prophet, is presented with the Cleveland Cliffs, Inc. Scholarship. Natalie selected Maria Young, high school honors English teacher, as most influential educator and states "Mrs. Young taught us life lessons as well as the class subject, but also showed concern for our academics and our personal well-being." Natalie will attend Michigan Technological University in pursuit of a biomedical engineering degree.





Zakary Senske, child of Ashly Dodd, is presented with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Scholarship. Zakary named Emily Grout, high school biology teacher, as most influential educator stating "When I was brand new to the school, Mrs. Grout helped me get a basic understanding of Westwood High School." Zakary will study software engineering at Michigan Technological University and plans to become a software engineer at a big tech company.



NORTH STAR MONTESSORI ACADEMY



Samantha Fortunato, child of John and Kim Fortunato, is presented with the AT&T Scholarship and chose Sarah Waters, high school algebra and geometry teacher, as most influential educator stating "Ms. Waters has watched me grow academically and socially since my freshman year. She's always been there for any questions I have." Samantha will pursue a degree in clinical laboratory technology and continue on to neuroscience with a goal of becoming a neuroscience researcher.



Excellence in Education 21



Braeden Francisco, child of Kerry and Amy Francisco, receives the George & Virginia Peters Family Scholarship and selected Sarah Waters, high school mathematics teacher, as most influential educator for her teaching style and the way she connected with students. Braeden will continue studying coding and plans to pursue a career as a junior developer, working with Java script.



REPUBLIC-MICHIGAMME SCHOOLS

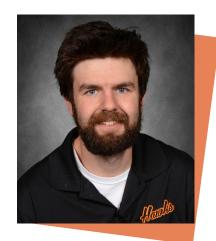


Jillian Kangas, child of Jon and Allison Kangas, is presented with the Peninsula Medical Scholarship and selects Annette Gleason, high school trigonometry teacher, as most influential educator stating "I chose Mrs. Gleason because she is dedicated to improving my education." Jillian will attend Northern Michigan University for paralegal studies and plans to become a senior paralegal.





Derek Koski, child of Jon and Kristina Koski, receives the Nicolet National Bank Scholarship. Derek chose Matthew Barbercheck, middle and high school industrial arts teacher, as most influential educator noting "He is the reason I want to enter the trades, he has been such a positive influence." Derek will join the workforce and attend technical college to pursue several trades certificates, including mechanic and electrician.





Abigail Oslund, child of Samantha Suomi, receives the Wells Fargo Scholarship. Abigail selected Shannon Miller, middle and high school English teacher, as most influential educator stating "She has inspired me and pushed me to be my best. She sees the potential I have and refuses to see or let me be anything but my best." Abigail will study veterinary medicine at University of Wisconsin – Green Bay and plans to work at a veterinary clinic or hospital and eventually at an aquarium with aquatic animals.



SUPERIOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Eva LaVallie, child of Dean LaVallie and Alisa Charlebois, is presented with the Munising Memorial Hospital Scholarship. Eva chose Erin Menhennick, high school biology teacher, as most influential educator sharing "Mrs. Menhennick's biology class helped me realize what I want to do for the rest of my life. She helped me realize my passion for biology." Eva will pursue a degree in zoology and wants to impact conservation and help wildlife.





Ethan Phillipson, child of Emmett Phillipson and the late Rabecca Phillipson, is presented with the Peoples State Bank Scholarship. Ethan chose Shannon Hancock, high school English teacher, as most influential educator stating, "She has been my personal favorite teacher to work with, striking a balance between thoroughly funny and strict. She has also been the teacher of several less-desired classes and made them enjoyable and understandable, making me a better writer and student overall." Ethan plans to pursue a civil engineering degree at Michigan Technological University and become a construction manager and work on community improvement projects.



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2022 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

AUTRAIN-ONOTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Paraprofessional and Librarian **Kathy Walther** receives the Autrain-Onota Public Schools Professional Development Award. Kathy will use the award to fund an arts and culture field trip for preschool through second grade students. The students will visit Peter White Public Library, enjoy a restaurant lunch and do an art project at Hot Plate Pottery.



BURT TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

Middle and High School English Teacher **Dixie McCormick** receives the Fred W. and June M. Schaefer Professional Development Award. Dixie, along with Science Teacher Gordon Tester, will use the award to purchase LED stage lights for performing arts activities, which will allow students to learn modern skills in stage lighting.



FATHER MARQUETTE CATHOLIC ACADEMY



Middle School Science Teacher Alexandra Gencheff receives the Dr. Elmer J. Schacht Professional Development Award. Alexandra will create a STEM makerspace and enhance the technology component with robotics, generator and motor kits, exposing students to the basics of technology, programming and computational thinking skills.

GWINN AREA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Industrial/Vocational Tech and Building Trades Teacher Michael Nicosia receives the Ellwood and Idamae Mattson Professional Development Award. Michael will attend a "Geometry in Construction" training seminar, which focuses on the math involved in construction, giving students hands-on experience while learning geometry.



The Professional Development Award in Honor of Ruth Ann Marley Holmstrom is presented to Geometry and Algebra 1 Teacher **Travis Polk**. Travis will also attend the "Geometry in Construction" training seminar, to create a program to utilize and promote a hands-on approach to geometry to help students with math scores and STEM projects.

ISHPEMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Middle School English and High School Personal Living Teacher Jodi Crist receives the Peninsula Medical Professional Development Award. Jodi will use the award to purchase current, socially relevant novels and teacher materials to form a literature circle. The novels focus on overcoming adversity and developing resilience through challenges.

The Phyllis and Max Reynolds Foundation Professional Development Award is presented to Kindergarten Teacher Rita Hausher. Rita will purchase grade appropriate science kits and books to implement handson science activities with students.

MARESA

The John and Deborah Veiht Professional Development Award is presented to Great Lakes Recovery Centers Teacher Paul Trdan. The award will be used to purchase journals for a "Write to Live" project, providing all 2021-2022 students with the "I want to live..." entries written by the class throughout the year, to serve as a reminder of how to move forward when experiencing mental and emotional challenges.











MARQUETTE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



English, Publishing and Photography Teacher **Cynthia DePetro** receives the Rotary Club of Marquette Professional Development Award. Students will be visiting Tahquamenon Falls as part of a cross-curricular project, combining English, photography and geography. Students are reading the book, The Marsh King's Daughter, which takes place in the eastern Upper Peninsula. They will explore and photograph some of the areas mentioned in the book.



The Carl and Lynne Hammerstrom Professional Development Award is presented to High School Spanish Teacher **Katelynn Jensen**. She will use the funds to provide two students with \$250 scholarships to offset costs in participating in the Costa Rican Student Exchange program, giving them the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the language and culture.



Second Grade Teacher **Peggy Lagina** is awarded the Craig and Kristin Wilmes Professional Development Award. Peggy will purchase preferential seating options—wiggle seats, reading benches and stools— to accommodate students' needs and comfort levels, thus encouraging more reading.

Career/College Readiness Teacher **Brian Prill** receives the A. Felch Pendill Professional Development Award. Brian will purchase two new grow lights for the hydroponic and aquaponic laboratory. Over the past five years, students have been learning about plant biology, the nutrient cycle and the importance of food security, all while caring for fish and growing plants. The lights will take the lab to a new level in being able to supply food to the school, while students learn entrepreneurial skills and participate in a hands-on STEM project.



MUNISING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The UP Health System Professional Development Award is presented to Applied Physics and STEM Teacher **Mandy Frantti**. Mandy will use the award to purchase fluid dynamic models and a portable water pump, allowing students to do hands-on experiments and gather data and apply the concepts being taught.

The Dr. June M. Schaefer Professional Development Award is presented to Great Start Readiness Program Preschool Teacher **Elisheba Petersen**. Elisheba will use the award for tuition for her Masters in Early Childhood Education and Special Education at Northern Michigan University.





NEGAUNEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Lakeview Elementary Assistant Principal Heather Holman is awarded the UP Health System Administrator Professional Development Award. Heather will attend the 2022 Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association (MEMSPA) Summer Leadership Institute to develop the skills necessary to address the ever changing and challenging needs of public school educators, benefiting both students and staff.



Lakeview Elementary Title 1 Teacher **Bethany Prusi** is awarded the R.K. Richards Memorial Professional Development Award. Bethany will use the award to provide two chapter-books to all third graders over the summer to help close the summer reading gap.



The Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc. Professional Development Award is presented to Eighth Grade Science and Environmental Adventures Teacher **Krista Squiers**. Krista will get her certification in wilderness first aid as her students participate in rock climbing and backpacking adventures. She will provide a Wilderness First Aid unit, which is information students can use their entire lives.

NICE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kindergarten Teacher **Christina King** receives the Professional Development Award in Honor of Maxine Honkala. Funds will be used to purchase reading games, books and snacks for a "Family Reading Night" in which students and their families get to play reading games together.

Special Education Teacher Lisa Ruby is presented with the Professional Development Award in Honor of Louis and Joan Myefski. Lisa will use the funds to become a Certified Youth Yoga Calm instructor. This is a trauma-informed program that helps students reduce stress, develop self-control, attention, fitness and social/emotional skills. She hopes to see the program impact all students in the school as they grow into adults.

NORTH STAR MONTESSORI ACADEMY

The Marquette Internal Medicine Associates Professional Development Award in Honor of Donald R. Toti is presented to Special Education Teacher **Errica Ingram**. The award will be used to purchase assistive computer components, such as noise-canceling and Bluetooth headsets and scan-and-read pen and headset to provide students with options to help them focus on individual study.









POWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS



Superintendent and Principal **Michelle Gill** is presented with the Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc. Administrator Professional Development Award. Michelle will use the award to attend the 2022 Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association (MEMSPA) Summer Leadership Institute to gain valuable knowledge and skills to improve student learning, behavior management and staff collaboration.



Third and Fourth Grade Teacher John Gillette is awarded the Wisconsin Energy Corporation Professional Development Award. John will purchase solar kits to teach students about energy transfer and electric forces. They will learn how sunlight and wind can be converted to electric energy.

REPUBLIC-MICHIGAMME SCHOOLS



The UP Health System Professional Development Award is presented to Secondary Math Teacher **Annette Gleason**. Annette will purchase graphing calculators to allow students to work individually or collaboratively in making observations and discoveries of mathematical functions based on a given situation. College-bound students will gain experience in how the calculators work.

SUPERIOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Fourth Grade Teacher Jessica Kelto receives the David and Karen Bahrman Professional Development Award. Jessica will purchase 30 yoga mats for her students and complete a seminar through Yoga International to learn and incorporate yoga and mindfulness practices in her class to support healing, build resilience and help students navigate through difficult situations that may arise in the future.



WELLS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sixth-Eighth Grade Teacher **Hope Bruce** is presented the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Professional Development Award. The funds will be used to purchase different active seating options that allow for natural movement to keep students better engaged and focused.

JUDY WATSON OLSON EDUCATION ENRICHMENT AWARD

Rudyard Elementary School 5th Grade Language Arts Teacher Holly Eimiller receives the Judy Watson Olson Education Enrichment Award. The funds will be used to purchase novels and a couple magazine subscriptions to offer students more reading options. She will also buy materials to do a "Book Tasting" event, where books are listed on a menu at tables, and books can be sampled (tasted) at each table. This exposes students to new authors and genres. Students vote at the end of the event for the next read aloud book. One of the school's missions is that all students will be confident readers.



Gifts and pledges have been received from the following individuals, families, businesses and foundations for the **EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND**.

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Endowing Excellence in Education Week

In 1998, Grow & Lead — in conjunction with Alger Regional Community Foundation and the Community Foundation of Marquette County — mobilized the community to build an endowment to provide scholarships and awards celebrating academic excellence. Each student honored receives a \$1,500 scholarship to be used to further his or her education. Each selected Professional Development Award recipient honored receives a \$500 award.

With a \$1 million lead gift from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, local businesses and individuals gifts help to ensure the future of Excellence in Education Week for years to come. Your continued gifts can help secure the fund during volatile financial times. Please contact your local community foundation or Grow & Lead for more information on how to contribute to the endowment and secure the future of this exciting program.

Please consider including the Excellence in Education Endowment Funds as part of your annual, memorial and planned giving.



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