



2023
EXCELLENCE
IN EDUCATION
Marquette and Alger Counties

30th Annual
Academic Achievement & Professional Development Awards



Grow & Lead
Community and Youth Development

Eagle Mine

a subsidiary of **lundin mining**



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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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Quinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" and last name "Quinn" clearly distinguishable.

CEO, Grow & Lead: Community and Youth Development

Agenda

Monday, April 24, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
Northern Center
Northern Michigan University, Marquette

Opening Comments & Welcome

Amy Quinn, CEO
Grow & Lead: Community and Youth Development
Abigail McCollum, 2023 Negaunee High School Scholarship Recipient

Masters of Ceremony

Robert Luke, Sales Manager
Blue Cross Blue Shield Upper Peninsula
Erin Daines, District Director
Michigan State University Extension

Recognition of Donors and Sponsors

National Anthem and Music Presentation

Ishpeming High School Hematites in Harmony
Caitlin Palomaki, Director

Educator Reflections

Cynthia DePetro, Former Professional Development Award Recipient
Marquette Alternative High School

Keynote Speaker

Robert Steinhoff
2008 Munising High School Scholarship Recipient

Presentation of Student and Educator Awards

Principals and Superintendents

Adjournment

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STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT & INFLUENTIAL EDUCATOR SPONSORS



Keynote

ROBERT STEINHOFF

Robert Steinhoff was born in Manistique and raised in Munising. He graduated from Munising High School in 2008. As an Excellence in Education scholarship recipient, he says he still feels indebted to his influential educator, Jim Cotey, whom he often turned to in times of academic and personal struggle. In fact, he still turns to Mr. Cotey to this day regularly for advice.

Steinhoff attended Lake Superior State University, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and concentration in law. During his time at Lake Superior State, he was elected Student Body President in his junior and senior years.

Following graduation, Steinhoff attended the University of Wisconsin Law School in Madison, where he obtained his Juris Doctorate in 2015. During law school, he worked for the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs and the United States Coast Guard in Washington D.C.

Shortly after law school, Steinhoff began working as a Deputy Court Administrator in Cass County, MI, where he became certified as a juvenile court referee and took the Michigan Bar Exam. Two years later, in 2017, he founded the general practice firm, Steinhoff Law, PLC, specializing in criminal defense.

In April of 2019, Steinhoff was appointed Alger County Prosecutor by the 11th Circuit Court, making him at the time, the youngest Prosecuting Attorney in Michigan. A year later, he ran for the position in the 2020 election and was successful, making him the youngest elected prosecutor in the state at that time.

Steinhoff serves on many nonprofit and state-wide boards. He lives in Munising with his wife Roxanne and three cats, Khan, Sir Ulrich, and Lara.



Former Professional Development Award Recipient

CYNTHIA DePETRO

Cynthia has been a teacher for over 27 years. She taught for 5 years at East Kentwood High School, and was hired by Marquette Area Public Schools in 1999, teaching at Marquette Senior High School as an honors and regular English teacher, then at Marquette Alternative High School as an English, Publishing/Yearbook and Photography teacher.

She has been a recipient of the Excellence in Education Week Educator Professional Development Award seven times and was Marquette Area Public Schools' Teacher of the Year in 2011-12. Other recognitions include being honored by the SET SAG National Magazine for School Boards in 2015 and by TV6 News Upside Report in 2023 for organizing "Rock the Socks", a program to collect socks for distribution to those in need. She has also been a competitive cheer coach and MHSAA Safety Judge Official.

She serves on committees outside the education field and is proud to be a mother and grandmother.

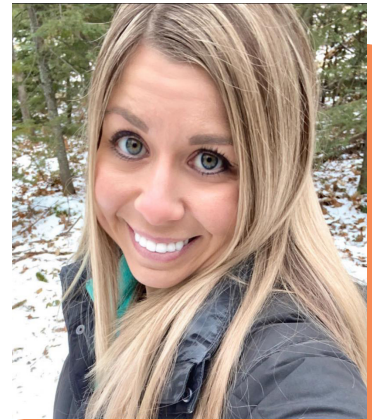


2023 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

GWINN AREA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Emily Bandle, child of Kerry Bandle, is awarded the Snyder Drug scholarship. Emily has chosen Jessie Laurie, middle and high school English and Spanish teacher, as influential educator sharing "She has been extremely influential in my education as well as my future career goals." Emily will attend Central Michigan University to study English and secondary education and plans to become a high school English teacher.



Melanie Beauchamp, child of DJ and Jennifer Beauchamp, receives the Catherine A. Kroll and Michael Prokopowicz Scholarship. Melanie has chosen LeeLa Heinzl, high school math teacher, as influential educator stating "She has supported me since eighth grade, and she is the reason I enjoyed going to school." Melanie will attend Northern Michigan University to complete middle college and obtain her automotive associate degree.



Lena Pleaugh, child of Francis and Amber Pleaugh, is presented with the William Olson Family Scholarship and selected LeeLa Heinzl, high school math teacher, as most influential educator sharing "Mrs. Heinzl pushed me every year to work harder and she helped me both in and out of the classroom." Lena will attend Lake Superior State University to study nursing and play basketball, with plans to become a traveling nurse practitioner.



ISHPEMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Seth Gaboury, child of Dean and Christy Gaboury, receives the Francis and Genevieve Tousignant Memorial Scholarship and honors Corey Stiles, high school English teacher, as most influential educator because of his open learning environment, along with his ability to make learning anything interesting and fun. Seth will attend Michigan Technological University to study electrical engineering and to work in a continuously evolving field.



Faith Loman, child of Mark and Anne Loman, is presented with the Scholarship in Honor of Dorothy and William "Bee" Sivula and honors Corey Stiles, high school English teacher, as most influential educator sharing "The way he teaches reminds me that education is fun. He makes connections with each student, making sure they know they are important. He cares and it shows." Faith will attend Lakeland University to study psychology and play volleyball, with plans to become a school counselor or licensed therapist.



Emily Morton, child of David and SueAnn Morton, receives the John and Ruth Marietti Memorial Scholarship and chose Jodi Crist, personal living and early childhood development teacher, as most influential educator. Emily states "Ms. Crist is always there with open arms and is the best listener. She always seems to have the solution." Emily will attend Northern Michigan University to study education and become a secondary education teacher.





Cora Nicholas, child of Brandon and Joanna Nicholas, receives the Susan Chinn Memorial Scholarship. Cora selected Caitlin Palomaki, high school chorus teacher, as most influential educator sharing “She brought music back into our school and has inspired me to continue pursuing it.” Cora will study pre-medicine and plans to become an orthopedic surgeon.



Marina Pascoe, child of Mike and Michelle Pascoe, is presented the Ishpeming Kiwanis Club scholarship. Marina chose Katie Gray, high school health occupations, anatomy and physiology teacher and states “I always look forward to Mrs. Gray’s class because she is so optimistic and shows that she cares about her students. She has a way of making learning fun and enjoyable.” Marina will attend Northern Michigan University and plans to become a radiographer.



Carleigh Rantala, child of Duane and Lori Rantala, receives the Mining Journal Scholarship and chose Corey Stiles, high school English teacher, as most influential educator. Carleigh shares “He’s always been there to make me smile when I needed it most, encouraged me to come out of my shell during one of the hardest times of my life, and supports me in doing what I love.” Carleigh plans to major in art and design while considering writing, forensics and psychology as well.



MARQUETTE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Lars Anderson, child of Derek and Stephanie Anderson, receives the George & Virginia Peters Family Scholarship and chose Katelynn Jensen, Spanish 3 and AP Spanish, as most influential educator noting “Ms. Jensen takes the most intimidating subject, learning a new language, and creates an environment in which mistakes are celebrated as part of the learning process. She is an excellent ally for students looking to pursue further schooling or a career in Spanish.” Lars plans to attend Northern Michigan University majoring in fisheries and wildlife management and minoring in Spanish and data science.



Brian Belkowski, child of George and Theresa Belkowski, is presented the scholarship In Honor of Reverend Monsignor Jed Patrick and chose Tom Seeke, HS Algebra 2 as most influential educator. Brian notes “Mr. Seeke sparked my love for math. Each time I entered his class I was eager to learn, and he was always excited to teach. All in all, Mr. Seeke was a wizard with a whiteboard marker, and I hope to be as good at math as he is someday.” Brian will attend Michigan State University to study engineering.



Althea Bruggink, child of John and Jennifer Bruggink, receives the Gadzinski Family Scholarship and is honoring Kim Fryzel, 9th grade biology teacher, as most influential educator sharing “Thorough and thoughtful in her teaching, Ms. Fryzel was a kind and welcoming teacher. She provided abundant opportunities for learning, with a diversity of in-class activities and options to make up tests and labs after school.” Althea’s future plans are undetermined at this time.





Lily Dixon, child of J. Bryan Dixon and Megan Dixon, is presented the Range Bank Scholarship and chose Blythe Raikko, high school history and government teacher, as most influential educator. "Ms. Raikko is a gifted teacher who has taught me how the study of history helps us understand the present day. She is the reason I faced my fears and spoke my truth at the regional soapbox competition. That experience taught me that it's our responsibility for each of us to advocate for the change we want to see in the world." Lily will attend the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities at Michigan State University.



Anna Grzelak, child of Ted and Michelle Grzelak, receives the Katherine Thurner Memorial Scholarship and selected Ronda Manninen, AP anatomy and physiology teacher, as most influential educator stating "Mrs. Manninen has always created an open and engaging learning environment. When I had over 70 days of absences due to quarantining, she went above and beyond, making sure I was able to participate in class activities and helped me catch up when I returned. I am grateful to have such a dedicated teacher." Anna plans to study nursing and eventually become a nurse anesthetist.



Maija Itenberg, child of Debra Paulson, is presented with the Joe and Pat Blake Family Scholarship. Maija chose Diana Reeves, Algebra 2 teacher as influential educator. Maija shares "It's clear to see that Mrs. Reeves really cares about her students, recognizing the stressors of school and being awake far too early. COVID's online learning made me insecure about my math skills and her class really helped me regain my confidence. Mrs. Reeves is also a girl boss in STEM." Maija will study law in college.





Braden Ketzenberger, child of Brett and Cyndi Ketzenberger, receives the Marquette Community Federal Credit Union Scholarship and selected Kelly Lenaghen, 8th grade Algebra I teacher, as most influential educator because “Math used to be the subject I struggled in, but Mrs. Lenaghen allowed me time and instruction that provided itself invaluable in developing me as a student.” Braden plans to pursue a degree in chemical engineering or neuroscience to become a professor or researcher.



Andrew King, child of John and Christina King, is presented with the Scholarship in Memory of Reverend Monsignor Louis G. Cappel. Andrew chose Nate McFarren, high school woodshop and construction teacher, as most influential educator. Andrew shared, “Mr. McFarren has always supported and encouraged me while overseeing my development through high school. His presence both at the school and on the pool deck has left a lasting impact on the person I am and will become. I want to thank him for his continuous support and encouragement over the past four years.” Andrew will study fish and wildlife biology to help preserve nature and wildlife around the Great Lakes.



Elodie Malherbe, child of Stephane and Gala Malherbe, receives the Rotary Club of Marquette Exemplary Rotarian Burt Sparhawk Scholarship and selected Natalie Messano, AP Chemistry teacher as most influential educator. Elodie stated, “Mrs. Messano is influential to me in academics, as well as athletics as my track coach. In AP Chemistry, I fell in love with the subject thanks to her teaching style and constant support. I always felt comfortable asking questions and she always went above and beyond to help me understand difficult topics.” Elodie plans to study biology or biochemistry and become a university professor.





Carson Vanderschaaf, child of Lyle and Connie Vanderschaaf, receives the Thomas Baldini Scholarship and selected Holly Muscoe, first grade teacher, as most influential educator noting “Most of the teachers who get the Excellence in Education Award are high school teachers, but I think that many of the most important teachers are the elementary school ones who are vital in building the foundational skills for young learners. She helped me with my reading, helped me grow socially, and helped me gain confidence in myself.” Carson will major in computer science at Eastern Michigan University and run on the cross country and track and field teams.



Colin Vanderschaaf, child of Lyle and Connie Vanderschaaf, is presented with the William and Carol LaVallie Scholarship and chose Karl Thomsen, high school algebra teacher as most influential educator. Colin shared “Walking into Mr. Thomsen’s class was always the highlight of my school day. He made learning math fun and exciting and encouraged me to take higher-level math classes throughout high school. Even though Mr. Thomsen is no longer one of my teachers, he always finds time to talk to me in the hallways and asks how things are going.” Colin will attend Grand Valley State University and major in biology with plans to become a cardiologist.



Haylee Vickers, child of Jeff and Trisha Vickers, is presented the Melanie J. Rohr, J.D. and Dr. Steven L. Pence, Jr. Scholarship and names Stephen Atwood, high school science and biology teacher, as most influential educator. Haylee states, “Coming into high school, I was extremely anxious, and Mr. Atwood kept me grounded. He helped me learn that failure is to be expected and should also be applauded because it means you tried. By teaching me to look at failure as an opportunity, I was able to excel in tougher courses.” Haylee will study biomedicine to become a doctor of pediatric and adolescent psychiatry.





Adam White, child of Andrew and Kristen White, receives the Lincoln and Anne Frazier Memorial Scholarship and honors Clifton Smalley, AP language teacher, as most influential educator noting “Mr. Smalley teaches because it is a passion of his. This is clearly evident in his classroom as he is constantly working to make class fun with debates or projects. He makes an effort to connect with every student.” Adam plans to attend Michigan State University.



Drew White, child of Andrew and Kristen White, is presented with the Reijo Aho Scholarship and named Kris O'Connor, high school world history teacher, as most influential educator. Drew shared “Ms. O’Conner was one of the most kind and caring teachers I’ve had throughout my educational career. I believe the world history class workload helped me build great study habits which have helped me succeed academically and will help me in college.” Drew will study data science at the University of Michigan.



MUNISING PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Monique Brisson, child of Jason Brisson and Melissa Berube, receives the Richard and Mary Bowerman Scholarship and chose Jim Cotey, chemistry and algebra teacher, as most influential educator sharing that “Mr. Cotey is not only an amazing teacher but an amazing person. He has so much patience and always pushes his students to learn and understand the material that is being taught. I will continue to use the lessons he has taught me for the rest of my life.” Monique’s future plans are undecided at this time.





Elizabeth Holloway, child of Nathanael and Sara Holloway, receives the Hiawatha Communications Incorporated Scholarship. Elizabeth selected Hilary Ludecke, natural resources teacher, as most influential educator stating "I believe she is highly respectable and I admire her kindness and perspective on life." Elizabeth will attend Central Michigan University with plans to open her own fitness and nutrition clinic.



Kane Nebel, child of Charles and Denise Nebel, is presented with the Peoples State Bank of Munising Scholarship. Kane chose Matt Mattson, Guidance Counselor, as most influential educator. Kane shared, "Mr. Mattson is someone I definitely look up to. He will always have your back and always seems to have a positive attitude. I hope one day I can have as much of an impact on a community like he has for Munising." Kane will study sports management at the University of Michigan with plans to become a lawyer..



Josiah Peramaki, child of Matthew and Anne Peramaki, is awarded the scholarship In Honor of Frank and Ruth Mead and chose Mandy Frantti, physics and calculus teacher, as most influential educator because "Ms. Frantti has pushed my education far beyond what I thought I was capable of." Josiah will study civil engineering at Michigan Tech.





Micaiah Peramaki, child of Matthew and Anne Peramaki, receives the Neenah, Incorporated Scholarship. Micaiah chose Eileen Gaynor, middle and high school English teacher, as most influential educator stating, "Mrs. Gaynor is like a friend to me and my siblings. She is a great English teacher but she also taught me many life lessons." Micaiah plans to obtain a marine captain's license and attend Michigan Technological University.



NEGAUNEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Morgan Carilli, child of Daniel and Linda Carilli, is awarded the Honor Credit Union Scholarship and selects Jake Skewis, high school business teacher as most influential educator. Morgan notes, "He makes learning enjoyable because he's a friend as well as a teacher. He's always happy to help, and his positive attitude never fails to put me and others in a good mood." Morgan plans to study mathematics at Michigan Technological University with plans to become a certified actuary.



Nathan Keough, child of Randy and Danielle Keough, is presented with the Robert & Rena Koskey Scholarship and chose Kathy Alexander, high school American history and economics teacher, as most influential educator. Nathan shares, "She always makes the class interactive with activities and projects, which help me use new ways of thinking which have helped make me a better learner." Nathan will major in engineering to make a difference on the planet by applying knowledge and skills to creating a cleaner and more efficient source of energy by reducing emissions.





Ryan Kerkela, child of Mike and Kristy Kerkela, receives the Sydney W. Northey Memorial Scholarship and has named Cynthia Benaglio, high school math and applied science teacher, as most influential educator stating, "She has always shown qualities of a confident leader and she has exceptional skills in communication, adaptability, and patience. She knows there are many different ways to understand math and science and school isn't just about the curriculum in a book." Ryan will attend Grand Valley State University to major in secondary education social studies and make a difference in the community.



Abigail McCollum, child of Michael and Jodi McCollum, is presented with the Scholarship in Memory of Saima Kuivila and has named Michael McCollum, middle school principal, as most influential educator. Abigail states, "Mr. McCollum was an amazing teacher in and out of school. He taught me lifelong lessons in the classroom and carried them into our personal lives. He is an amazing teacher, principal, and father." Abigail will attend college at the Air Force Academy or through ROTC with plans to join Space Force as a space operations officer.



Thomas McCollum, child of Michael and Jodi McCollum, is presented with the Renee Thomas Memorial Scholarship. Thomas chose Mark Churchill, middle school geography teacher, as most influential educator sharing "He made every day exciting and another adventure. You never knew what was going to be next in Mr. Churchill's class and whatever it was would probably be the most fun class of the day." Thomas will study chemical engineering at Michigan State University with plans to create something that changes our lives for the better.





Robert Mechling V, child of JR and Katie Mechling, is presented with the AT&T Scholarship and chose Bill Ellerbruch, high school math teacher, as most influential educator stating, "I like the way Mr. Ellerbruch teaches and I enjoy his constant positivity." Robert will study mechanical engineering at Michigan Technological University.



Philip Nelson, child of Dan and Becky Nelson, receives the John M. Longyear Scholarship. Philip selected Paul Jacobson, high school football coach, as most influential educator and states "Coach J has played a huge role in who I am today. He has taught me how to be a leader both on and off the field. He always has a positive attitude and encourages everyone." Philip will attend college to study engineering and plans to positively impact his community through leading by example with a combination of his applied knowledge and skills.



NICE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Ian Bivins, child of David and Amanda Bivins, receives the Brian L. Joseph Memorial Scholarship. Ian chose Peggy Crum, middle school world and American history teacher, as most influential educator, sharing "Mrs. Crum was very impactful on my school career and is the reason I want to teach history. The way she taught and connected with students was the best." Ian will attend Northern Michigan University to study history secondary education and military science. He plans to teach high school American history and military history.





Lucy Howe, child of John and Rachel Howe, is presented with the Cory Nelson Memorial Scholarship and chose Terri Balzarini, high school calculus teacher, as most influential educator as her teaching has prepared Lucy for a college career at Michigan Technological University where she will pursue a civil engineering degree.



Kirsten LaMere, child of Ryan and Michelle LaMere, is presented with the Scholarship in Honor of Charles and Lois Smith. Kirsten selected Maria Young, high school English and Spanish teacher, as most influential educator sharing "Mrs. Young always lent me a helping hand, academically and mentally. She is optimistic and caring about all of her students and their success." Kirsten will major in biological sciences at Michigan Technological University and is considering a career in a medical field.



Allyson Poirier, child of Todd Poirier and Kathy Hansen, receives the UP Health System – Bell Medical Staff Scholarship and chose Catherine Lange, high school art teacher, as most influential educator. Allyson shares "Mrs. Lange was my most influential teacher throughout high school because she taught me that it was okay to express my individuality and creativity." Allyson plans to relocate to Miami, Florida to enroll in a tattoo certification program and open a tattoo studio to focus on helping others feel comfortable in expressing themselves.





Hannah Whitaker, child of John and Shelly Whitaker, receives the TruNorth Federal Credit Union Scholarship and chose Maria Young, high school English teacher, as most influential educator and states "She is a beacon of hope for kids struggling, not only academically, but also mentally." Hannah will attend Northern Michigan University to study law and plans to become a guardian ad-litem or lawyer specializing in child and family services.



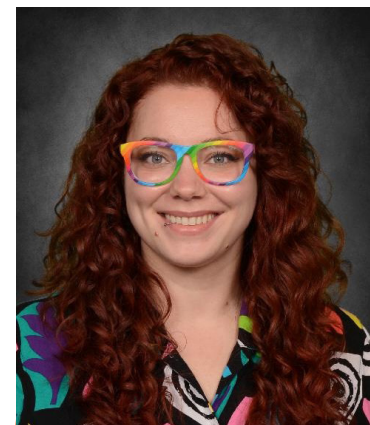
NORTH STAR MONTESSORI ACADEMY



Alexander Mars, child of Anthony and Amanda Mars, is presented with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Scholarship. Alexander named Sarah McLeod, high school literacy and social studies teacher, as most influential educator and states "Mrs. McLeod respected and valued me as a student, helped me through difficult times and made herself available throughout the pandemic. She inspired my passion for history and literature." Alexander will attend Northern Michigan University in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in history with a long-term goal to become a tenured history professor.



Isabella Teeple, child of Joshua and Dorothy Teeple, receives the UP Health System Scholarship and chose Lauren Tilma, 7th to 12th grade art teacher, as most influential educator sharing "She has taught me a lot about art and the creative process, which is how I present my feelings and go about life." Isabella will seek employment while attending college and plans to open an art studio and business.



REPUBLIC-MICHIGAMME SCHOOLS



Sophia Jarvi, child of Jonathan and Robin Jarvi, is presented with the Cleveland Cliffs, Inc. Scholarship. Sophia selected Shannon Miller, middle and high school language arts teacher, as most influential educator because she is outgoing, kind, admirable and always willing to talk. Sophia plans to pursue EMT certification and become an EMT/Paramedic.



Aaron Laakso, child of Curtis and Teresa Laakso, receives the Wells Fargo Scholarship. Aaron chose Annette Gleason, trigonometry and psychology teacher, as most influential educator, sharing "She has taught me to not fear failure and to use my voice to create the change I wish to see in the world. Her kindness is endless and she is an amazing teacher and human being." Aaron will attend college to pursue a nursing degree and become a traveling surgical nurse.



SUPERIOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Madisen Begovac, child of Luke Begovac, is presented with the Munising Memorial Hospital Scholarship. Madisen chose Shannon Hancock, high school English and history teacher, as most influential educator. Madisen states "When I was little she was also my library teacher. She has a warm and welcoming soul and has guided me through my educational years, while preparing me for the reality of the world." Madisen will attend college to pursue a biochemistry degree, a doctorate and plans to become a surgeon.

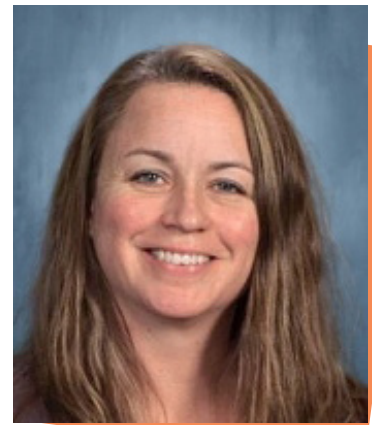




Brylee Tyner, child of Joseph Tyner and Harmony Nummilien, is presented with the Peninsula Medical Scholarship and selects Dawn Hayse, middle and high school math teacher, as most influential educator and shares “Mrs. Hayse is always in a good mood and wants her students to understand what she is teaching and I have earned an A in her class every year. She develops a relationship with each of her students.” Brylee will attend Bay College to complete pre-veterinary classes before attending Michigan State University with plans to become a large and small animal veterinarian.



Sophia Valima, child of William and Lori Valima, receives the Nicolet National Bank Scholarship. Sophia chose Dawn Hayse, high school math teacher, as most influential educator. Sophia shares “I’m not a math person, but Mrs. Hayse taught me how to understand and appreciate even the hardest subjects we covered. She pushes me to be the best that I can be and is always there when I need help - even if it’s not for math.” Sophia will attend college to major in biology and minor in psychology with plans to become a physician’s assistant, a nurse practitioner, or a physical therapist.



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Thank You!

2023 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

AUTRAIN-ONOTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Amy Pihlainen-Gabler, who teaches all subjects in grades 6-8, receives the Autrain-Onota Public Schools Professional Development Award. She will use the award to support a visit to the Museum of Ice Cream during their class trip to Chicago in May. Students will learn the history of ice cream and play in the world-famous sprinkle pool.



BURT TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

Amy Ross, who teaches all subjects in grades 4-6, receives the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Professional Development Award. Amy will start a classroom kitchen for hands-on learning through measurements, ratios and sequencing while building healthier lifestyles with acquired skills.



FATHER MARQUETTE CATHOLIC ACADEMY



Brianna Hobbins, art and Latin teacher, receives the Dr. Elmer Schacht Professional Development Award. Brianna will attend the Michigan Art Education Association Annual Conference this fall in Ann Arbor.

GWINN AREA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Shannon Ruiz, French, English and life prep teacher, receives the Professional Development Award in Honor of Ruth Ann Marley Holmstrom. Gwinn French students will participate in a field trip to learn about the history of French in Marquette and the NMU French program.



The Dr. June M. Schaefer Professional Development Award is presented to **Megan Soucy**, middle and high school art teacher. Megan will attend the Michigan Art Education Association Annual Conference this fall in Ann Arbor.

ISHPEMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Thomas Krause, Young Fives and Kindergarten teacher, receives the Ellwood and Idamae Mattson Professional Development Award. Thomas will use the award to purchase an educational rug to provide interactive learning of shapes, letters, and numbers.



The Fred W. and June M. Schaefer Professional Development Award is presented to **Kaitlyn Rich**, middle school science teacher. Kaitlyn will purchase a composter to teach students the process of turning food waste into plant food.



MARESA

The John and Deborah Veiht Professional Development Award is presented to **Travis Smith**, Deputy Superintendent for Educational Services. Travis will attend the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators fall conference.



MARQUETTE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Maryann Ferns, school counselor, receives the Carl and Lynne Hammerstrom Professional Development Award. Maryann will provide younger students with social emotional learning lessons and books with positive messages about how to be kind and caring.



The A. Felch Pendill Professional Development Award is presented to **Matt Hoffman**, high school English teacher. He will purchase video recorders for students to create public service announcements, documentaries, and narrative films.



Logan Love, elementary special education teacher, is awarded the Craig and Kristin Wilmes Professional Development Award. Funds will be used to support Logan's course work towards becoming certified in Positive Behavior Intervention and Support.

Trisha Vickers, elementary music teacher, receives the Rotary Club of Marquette Professional Development Award. Trisha will purchase hand drums made to fit on five-gallon buckets, increasing drumming functionality and making it easy for them to be used in a variety of grade levels.



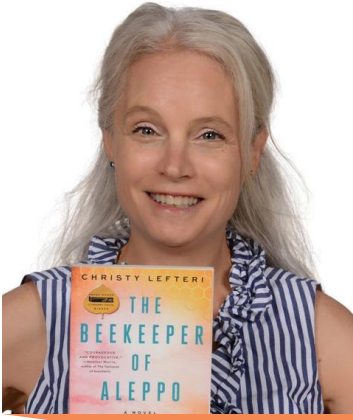
MUNISING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The UP Health System Professional Development Award is presented to **Jessica Kelto**, fourth grade teacher. Jessica will use the award to purchase books for fourth-grade classroom libraries that include content at their peer level but are written at a lower grade level to increase comprehension and reading confidence.



Nicole Lasak, middle and high school principal and athletic director, receives the UP Health System Administrator Professional Development Award. Nicole will develop a staff recognition and wellness program to promote self-care, physical and mental wellbeing through wellness training and positive programming.





The Peninsula Medical Professional Development Award is presented to **Heather Nayback**, 6-12th grade English and Spanish teacher. Award funds will support activities of the Junior National Honor Society program including school beautification and other volunteer events.

NEGAUNEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Elementary art teacher **Linnea Gustafson** is awarded the R.K. Richards Professional Development Award. Linnea will attend the Michigan Art Education Association Annual Conference this fall in Ann Arbor.



Michael McCollum, Middle School Principal, is awarded the Cleveland-Cliffs Administrator Professional Development Award. Michael will use the award to support the middle school peer-to-peer tutoring program which expands 5th graders math and reading skills and leadership skills for 8th grade tutors.

The Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc. Professional Development Award is presented to **Mallory Scanlon**, second grade teacher. Mallory will purchase copies of “Start with Joy: Designing Literacy Learning for Student Happiness” for fellow teachers at Lakeview Elementary School and lead a book study group to discuss new ideas to promote literacy learning.



NICE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mandy Moebius, special education teacher, receives the Professional Development Award in Honor of Louis and Joan Myefski. Award funds will be used to purchase materials for a raised bed garden to teach students how to grow healthy food from seed through harvest.



Sonya Seablom, Kindergarten teacher, is presented with the Professional Development Award in Honor of Maxine Honkala. She will purchase sensory tools to provide movement options and brain breaks as students learn what helps them stay regulated, focused, and ready to learn.



NORTH STAR MONTESSORI ACADEMY



The W.K. Kellogg Foundation Professional Development Award is presented to **Adrian Francisco**, Title One teacher. The award will be used to purchase multi-sensory learning tools to support student reading development.

POWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS



Jessica Laxo, preschool and Kindergarten teacher, is presented with the Marquette Internal Medicine Associates in Honor of Donald R. Toti Professional Development Award. Jessica will purchase learning tools such as 3D geometric shapes, balance scales, and pattern blocks to create a rich learning environment.

REPUBLIC-MICHIGAMME SCHOOLS



The Phyllis and Max Reynolds Foundation Professional Development Award is presented to **Mary Koski**, social studies, biology and life science teacher. She will enroll in Stanford History Group's "Civics Online Reasoning" class which will help her teach students how online news and social media use bias to influence their opinions.

SUPERIOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Shannon Hancock, middle/high school ELA and history teacher, receives the David and Karen Bahrman Professional Development Award. She will attend the National Council of Teachers of English and Assembly on Literature for Adolescents conference this fall in Columbus.



WELLS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Luann Lohfink, Title One teacher and superintendent, is presented the Wisconsin Energy Corporation Professional Development Award. Students will attend an end of the year field trip on the Pictured Rocks Boat Tour where they will learn about being good stewards of our environment and practice socially acceptable behavior.



JUDY WATSON OLSON EDUCATION ENRICHMENT AWARD

Trina Cook, RSVP program director at United Way of the Eastern Upper Peninsula, receives the Judy Watson Olson Education Enrichment Award. The funds will be used to support intermediate school age children in Chippewa County to continue their education path through the summer break with prepaid membership accounts through ABC Mouse, an online learning platform.



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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