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TO: Members of the Maryland State Board of Education
FROM: Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D. *Lillian M. Lowery*
DATE: May 19, 2015
SUBJECT: Recognition of Maryland's 2015-2016 Teachers of the Year

PURPOSE:

To recognize Maryland's newly named 2015-2016 local Teachers of the Year who will represent their school systems in the state and national Teacher of the Year competitions.

BACKGROUND OF THE PROGRAM, SPONSORS, AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Maryland has fully participated in the National Teacher of the Year Program for twenty-five years. The National Program is sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers. The Maryland program is sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Education with its presenting partners, Comcast, the Maryland Automobile Dealers Association, McDonalds Family of Greater Baltimore, and Northrop Grumman along with platinum sponsors: BGE, Lockheed Martin, NTA Life and Whiting Turning Contracting.

We are proud that in the last nine years, Maryland has had three National Teachers of the Year and an additional national finalist, an achievement which tops the record of teacher selection across the United States.

The objective of both national and state programs is to draw public attention to the teaching profession and the contributions of our outstanding teachers. The Maryland Teacher of the Year represents the thousands of teachers in the public schools of our State and when selected for the State Award, enters the National Teacher of the Year competition. National Teachers are accorded celebrity status and spend one year out of the classroom, traveling across the country bringing an education message to thousands of people. Maryland's Kim Oliver Burnim, Michelle Shearer, and Sean McComb have been selected as National Teachers and went on to represent over three million teachers in America.

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Maryland's Teacher of the Year, while not fully removed from the classroom, generally has a partner teacher assigned by the local school system in order to spend many days in speaking engagements and professional development programs at state conferences, college graduations, ceremonies, and other events. He or she is also invited to be part of prestigious panels and education committees. The National Teacher is recognized by the President at a White House Ceremony and participates in several International Tours. Each year, all 24 local Maryland Teachers of the Year are honored at a large Gala held at Martin's West. The teachers are also honored by the Maryland General Assembly, Maryland's Congressional Delegation, the Baltimore Orioles, the Ravens and others.

STATE BOARD CEREMONY:

Approximately 100 guests of the teachers are expected to attend the Board Ceremony, including parents, children, and other family members, local superintendents, principals, and business partners.

ACTION:

The State Superintendent and State Board President will present each Teacher of the Year with a State Board of Education Citation. An inscribed portfolio will also be presented and commemorative pictures will be taken.

An Honors Luncheon Immediately Follows the State Board Honors Ceremony

2015 – 2016 Teachers of the Year

Allegheny	Stephanie Marchbank
Anne Arundel	Jennie Merrill
Baltimore City	Ryan Kaiser
Baltimore County	Orly Mondell
Calvert	Robert James
Caroline	Cheryl A. Carmean
Carroll	Rachel McCusker
Cecil	Jacob (Jake) Zebley
Charles	Sarah Desrosiers
Dorchester	Emily Maddox
Frederick	Amanda Portner
Garrett	Rebecca Kenyon-Sisler
Harford	Laura Potter
Howard	Stephanie Geddie
Kent	Marion Goetz (Liza)
Montgomery	Joseph Gannon, Jr.
Prince George's	Renee Roth
Queen Anne's	Barbara Sutherland
St. Mary's	Sabra Szczyglowski
Somerset	Melodi Power
Talbot County	Kevin Baum
Washington	Sally Irwin
Wicomico	Kimberly McGlinchey
Worcester	Cassidy Hambrosky