



MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARDS



MILKEN FAMILY
FOUNDATION



#MilkenAward
#MyTeacherRocks

A photograph of Nathan Gibbs-Bowling, a Black man with a beard, wearing a dark blue sweater over a blue shirt and tie. He is being embraced by several people, including a woman in a red top and a woman in a white top with a black polka-dot pattern. A man in a blue and white striped hoodie is also visible. A large camera lens is in the foreground on the right. The background is a blurred blue and purple.

Nathan Gibbs-Bowling
2013 Washington Milken Educator

The goal of the Milken Educator Awards is to publicly and significantly acknowledge the work and talent of individual educators, and to elevate the profession and encourage talented young people to consider a career in education.

Since 1987, more than two million students have experienced that special day when a prized educator was surprised with a \$25,000 cash award and showered with attention from students, fellow teachers, staff, VIPs, the media and community.



A MESSAGE FROM LOWELL MILKEN

Chairman and Co-Founder, Milken Family Foundation

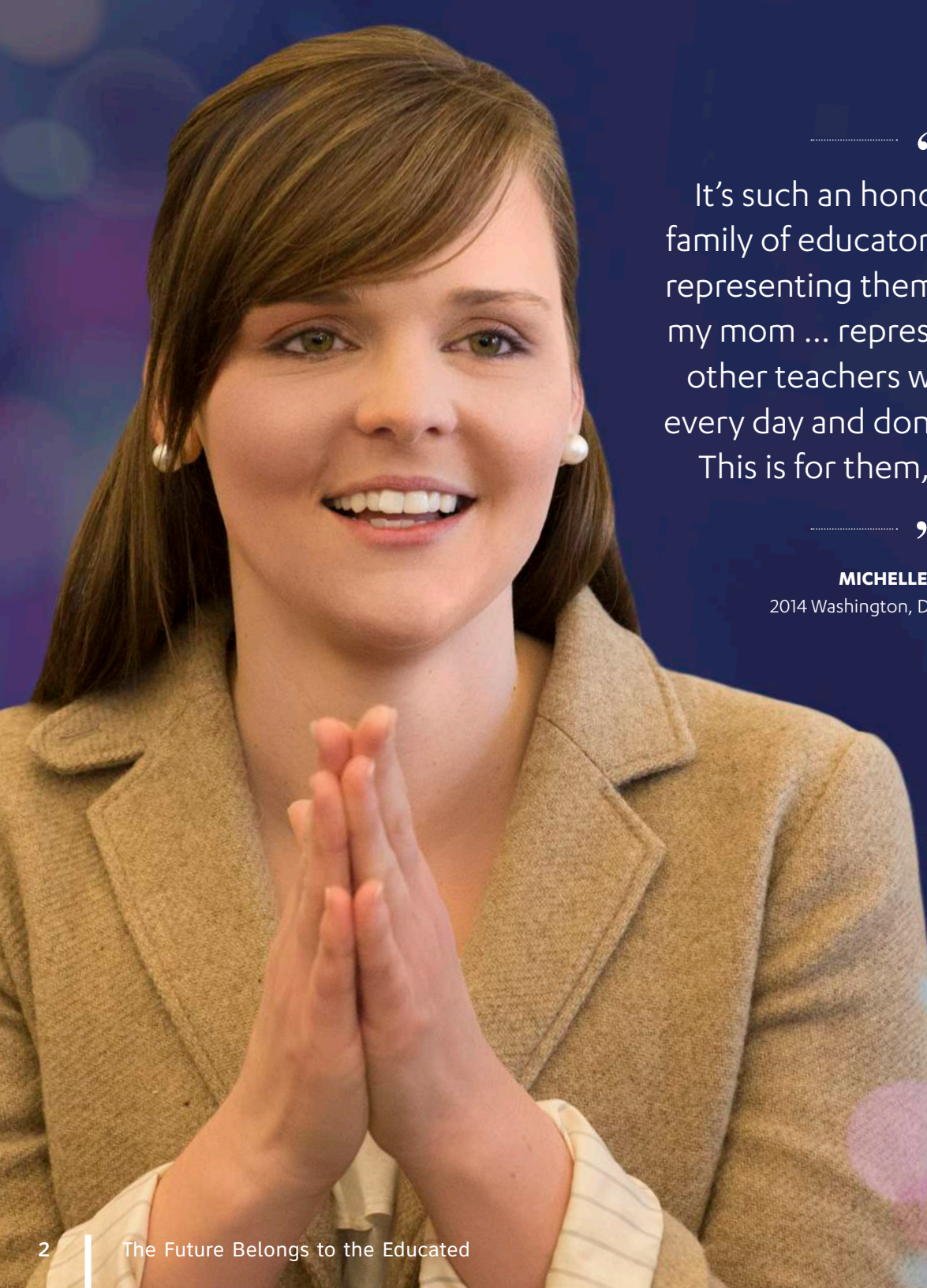
In 1987, we presented the first Milken Educator Awards to one dozen exemplary California educators. Since then, the Awards have led me on a quest to schools across America to seek out and reward a true class of heroes. For whether a school is urban, suburban or rural ... whether it represents the affluent or those most destitute ... within the course of a school day, research confirms that nothing and no one has more impact on student learning than the quality of the teacher in the classroom.

Focusing the spotlight of recognition on such excellence inspires not only educators, but students and entire communities to new heights of commitment and expectations—characteristics that are vital to our nation's future leadership, prosperity and security. An effective education equips each new generation with the knowledge and skills to make sound and independent judgments, as well as to proceed to the next stage in learning and life.

Education prepares us to defend, question, understand and participate in our democratic government. And when it comes to achieving prosperity in a challenging global economy, only educated individuals can achieve the productivity and flexibility that are essential in this age of the knowledge worker.

Today, more than any other time in history, no profession is more crucial than that of the talented teacher. For as the watchwords of the Milken Educator Awards proclaim: "The future belongs to the educated."

Lowell Milken



“

It’s such an honor. I come from a family of educators and I feel like I’m representing them. I’m representing my mom ... representing all of those other teachers who do hard work every day and don’t get recognition. This is for them, not just for me.

”

MICHELLE JOHNSON

2014 Washington, D.C. Milken Educator

The Milken Educator Award

TOUCHING HEARTS AND MINDS



Unlike most teacher recognition programs, the Milken Educator Awards has no formal nomination or application process. Each participating state department of education appoints an independent blue-ribbon committee to review candidates, who are sourced through a confidential selection process. Those most exceptional are recommended, with final approval by the Milken Family Foundation.

The surprise announcements are made during all-school assemblies filled with cheering students, respected colleagues, an entourage of distinguished officials, the media—and a stunned new Milken Educator. In a moment's time, these unsung heroes gain a significant financial prize and experience the unfamiliar but well-deserved acclaim and acknowledgment they rightly merit.

Media multiplies the message of the pivotal role that talented teachers play in student achievement, generating thousands of headline news stories from coast to coast that herald the inspiration and contributions of these newly discovered role models in education.

“The Milken Award is a ‘gold standard’ of teaching excellence. I have felt this both internally and from the community and my fellow colleagues. To be publicly recognized and financially rewarded are two of the hallmarks of a professional. The Milken Educator Award does both. I believe this Award has given me the confidence to share with the public my love, views and successful teaching practices. It has also given my voice as an educator much more leverage, because educators, government leaders, parents and the community respect and validate the Milken Family Foundation—and Milken Educators. Unlike most news stories, the Milken Award is the most positive educational message that our media shares with the world.”

RICK CROSSLIN

1998 Indiana Milken Educator



HELPING TEACHERS AND STUDENTS REACH THEIR POTENTIAL

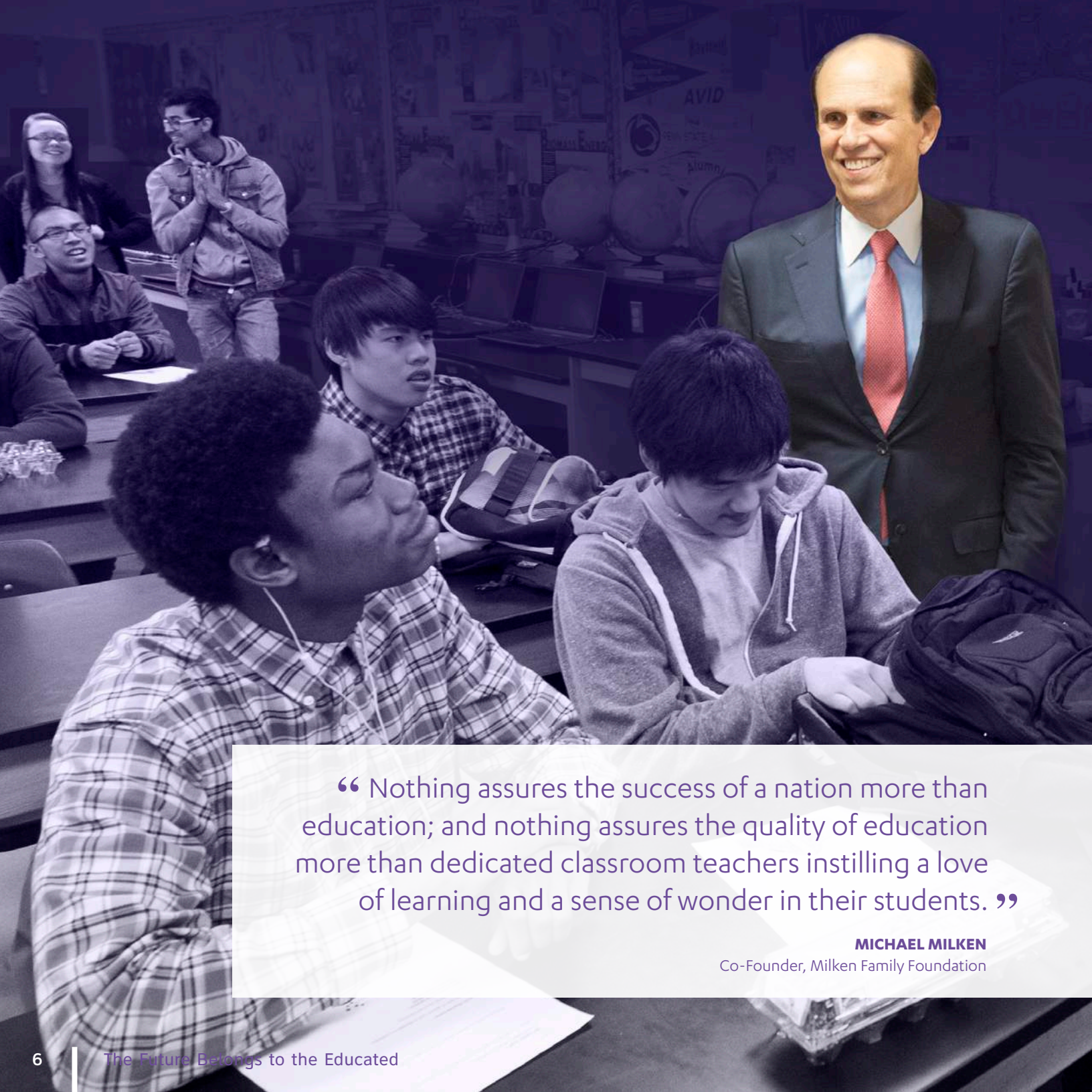


“ Milken Educators point to their Award as a pivotal professional milestone. They understand that encompassed in this recognition is the responsibility to grow as a leader in and beyond the school level. Encouraged and supported, these outstanding educators discover a renewed passion and purpose as they stretch their professional practices and policy influence to even higher levels.

As a 1994 recipient from Indiana, I know firsthand the value I placed on colleagues I met first in my Indiana network and then across the country. To this day, these interactions continue to recharge my batteries and remind me of the importance of our work and why we chose to be educators—to be the catalyst and guide that helps all students reach their potential. ”

DR. JANE FOLEY

Senior Vice President, Milken Educator Awards
1994 Indiana Milken Educator



“ Nothing assures the success of a nation more than education; and nothing assures the quality of education more than dedicated classroom teachers instilling a love of learning and a sense of wonder in their students. ”

MICHAEL MILKEN

Co-Founder, Milken Family Foundation

“ I was so young, having just started my seventh year of teaching, when I received this awesome, unexpected and life-changing Award. My first response was, ‘They must think I’m doing something really great, so I’d better get started.’

I used the Award money to earn my master’s degree, which launched my career into administration. Many doors opened because of my association with the Milken Family Foundation and I have had an amazing journey. ”



DR. ANGIE BEENDORFER

Chancellor, Western Governors University Missouri (WGU)
1996 Missouri Milken Educator

THE CRITERIA:

The criteria for the selection of outstanding elementary and secondary teachers, principals and specialists as Milken Educators include all of the following:

- Exceptional educational talent as evidenced by effective instructional practices and student learning results in the classroom and school;
- Exemplary educational accomplishments beyond the classroom that provide models of excellence for the profession;
- Individuals whose contributions to education are largely unheralded yet worthy of the spotlight;
- Early- to mid-career and educators who offer strong long-range potential for professional and policy leadership; and
- Engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues and the community.

GOALS

Outstanding educators who continue to learn are essential to the fostering of student growth, the improvement of schools and the enhancement of the education profession. Hence, the goals of the Milken Educator Awards are to:

- Honor and reward outstanding K-12 educators for the quality of their teaching, their professional leadership, their engagement with families and the community, and their potential for even greater contributions to the healthy development of children.
- Focus public attention on the importance of excellent educators.
- Encourage able, caring and creative people to choose the challenge, service and adventure of teaching as a career.
- Create national and state networks that:
 - Foster the active professional development and career enhancement of Milken Educators and other professionals.
 - Encourage Milken Educators to help shape the educational policies that influence their classrooms and schools.
 - Connect Milken Educators with the educational improvement efforts of state and federal education agencies, universities, educators, corporate partners and others.
- Engage corporate and foundation partners in assisting Milken Educators and in supporting policies that advance education.

MILKEN EDUCATOR NETWORK

Fostering Effective Leadership and Education Reform

“ While the money is important, over the years it’s been my experience with the recipients that the most important thing, the most lasting thing, is the significant public recognition, the validation of excellence and the opportunity to join the national network. ”

LOWELL MILKEN

Co-Founder, Milken Family Foundation



The visibility and reputation of a Milken Educator Award results in unlimited opportunities for educators to improve education at local, state and national levels. New recipients join the Milken Educator Network, a group of more than 2,600 distinguished professionals whose expertise serves as a valuable resource to fellow educators, legislators, school boards and others shaping the future of education.

The Milken Educator Network fosters effective leadership and education reform through its state and national engagement. Network meetings, discussion forums and online experiences promote collegiality and enhance communication among education stakeholders.

STATE NETWORKS

Across the country, Milken Educators confer, collaborate and contribute.



Celebrate

Hawaii Milken Educators

Aloha State Award recipients from years past travel from the outer islands to take part in the surprise notifications. Their collective support sheds light on the professional possibilities awaiting the newest members of the Milken Educator family. They also stage an annual event to honor their new recipient and present mini-grants to early career teachers.



“ Being recognized as a Milken Educator immediately provided credibility, as well as state and national acknowledgement regarding my teaching strategies, educational philosophy and projects. Suddenly, I was in the spotlight. Many wanted to know how my teaching methods impacted student learning and what my ideas and thoughts were regarding education.

The Milken Family was instrumental in inspiring me to raise my standards, to work harder to prove their investment was correct and to research opportunities benefitting students and schools. ”

DR. HECTOR IBARRA

1993 Iowa Milken Educator



Elevate

Virginia Teachers of Promise

In 2001, the Virginia Milken Educator Network, inspired by the Milken Educator Awards, established three goals: to celebrate the teaching profession in Virginia, to elevate the status of the teaching profession, and to activate educators and educators-to-be in their state. Three years later they launched the Teachers of Promise Institute (www.teachersofpromise.com), an annual event featuring professional development, as well as an awards ceremony to motivate talented teachers-in-training as they start their teaching careers. To date, more than 2,000 future teachers from the state's 37 schools of education have been named Virginia Teachers of Promise.

Activate

Kentucky Milken Educators

Roger Marcum (KY '97) was sworn in as a member of the Kentucky Board of Education by Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Daniel Venters. Marcum serves as board chair and represents the Third Supreme Court District. Bill Twyman (KY '93) represents the Second Supreme Court District.



“ We are identifying and honoring the next generation of great teachers, helping to advance their understanding of what teaching and learning really are. ”

WADE WHITEHEAD

2000 Virginia Milken Educator



MILKEN EDUCATORS AS AMBASSADORS FOR EXCELLENCE



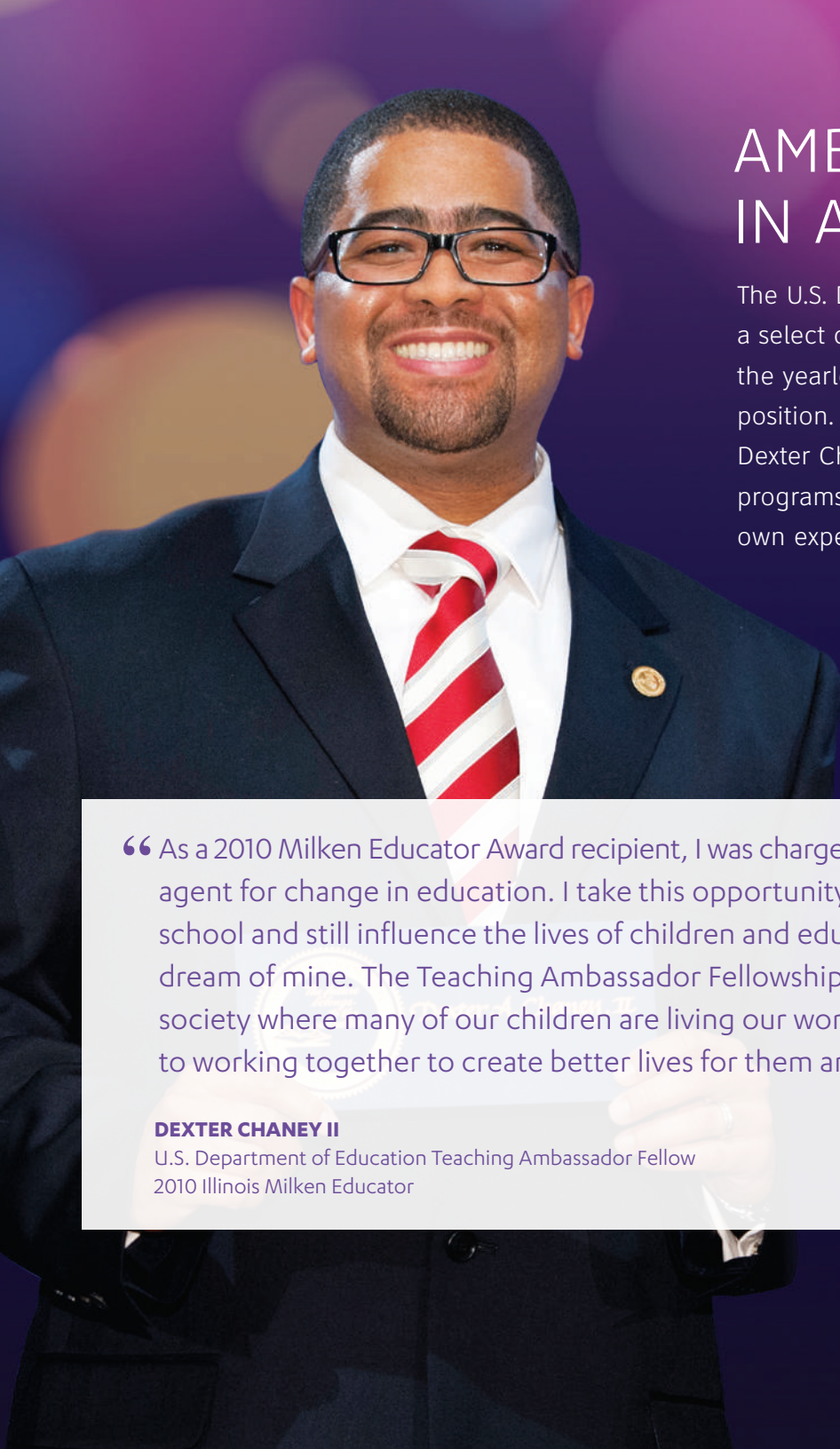
The Milken Educator Award is an ongoing relationship that provides recipients with additional resources and connects them in powerful networks. A dictionary defines “ambassador” as a high-ranking diplomat who represents a nation, but the word is also used to describe those without national appointment who represent their profession at the highest level. As a result of their honor, Milken Educators realize that the Award is a national appointment that provides a platform to advocate for students and the teaching profession.

“ I vividly remember Lowell Milken at my notification telling me that he expected great things from me. I recall him saying that this Award was being given for what I was going to do to make a positive difference in education. I took that to heart! I will remember that day forever because I suddenly had an entire ‘family’ who believed that I had the ability to make a difference. That is extremely powerful. ”

SHANNON GARRISON

2008 California Milken Educator

While continuing in her role as a classroom teacher, Shannon is one of three educators on the National Assessment Governing Board that sets policy for the National Assessment of Education Program (NEAP), known as “the nation’s report card.” She was recently named for a second term.



AMBASSADORS IN ACTION

The U.S. Department of Education annually names a select cadre of outstanding professionals to the yearlong Teaching Ambassador Fellowship position. Fellows, including Milken Educator Dexter Chaney II, gain an understanding of federal programs and policies while contributing their own expertise at national and regional levels.

“As a 2010 Milken Educator Award recipient, I was charged with the responsibility to be an agent for change in education. I take this opportunity seriously. The ability to remain in a school and still influence the lives of children and educators across our great country is a dream of mine. The Teaching Ambassador Fellowship allows me to fulfill this dream. In a society where many of our children are living our worst nightmares daily, I look forward to working together to create better lives for them and help them to dream.”

DEXTER CHANEY II

U.S. Department of Education Teaching Ambassador Fellow
2010 Illinois Milken Educator

THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THE EDUCATED



Great teachers reveal visions not only of what is possible for every young person, but also how students can achieve and thrive—no matter the obstacles.

“

There's just something about having this Award following your name. You are now part of the Milken Educators. I've just grown so much from this experience and being a part of the network. I've continued as a classroom teacher and I'm not afraid to speak up for my profession now. It's a gift that keeps on giving.

”

JANE FUNG

2002 California Milken Educator



Lowell Milken Center FOR *Unsung Heroes*

Discover

Create

Change



unsung hero (*n*): one who created positive change in history by improving the lives of others, and has yet to be recognized for his or her actions

The Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes (LMC) is an international nonprofit working to transform classrooms and communities through student-driven projects that discover Unsung Heroes from history and teach the power of one to create positive change. Through a unique project-based learning approach, LMC collaborates with students and educators across diverse academic disciplines to develop creative projects that highlight role models who have made a profound and positive impact on the course of history. Now in its seventh year, the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes has reached over one million students and 7,320 schools in all 50 states, with growing global reach.

“ Education strengthens our engagement with others through the lessons of history which, let us never forget, are the vital connections to a secure future. ”

LOWELL MILKEN
Founder



“We believe that young people can reach over walls of bias that adults can never hope to, changing lives and inspiring others to repair the world.”

NORM CONARD

1992 Kansas Milken Educator
LMC Executive Director

UNSUNG HEROES PROJECTS

Catholic social worker Irena Sendler saved 2,500 Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II. Little Rock Central High School senior Kendall Reinhardt faced bullies and beatings for being kind to the nine African Americans who integrated his school at the height of the civil rights movement. Unsung Heroes like these demonstrated extraordinary courage and compassion without seeking credit for it. They changed the world and influenced our lives, but their names are often not found in history books. Their stories deserve to be celebrated.

Unsung Heroes projects provide an interactive discovery process that cultivates critical-thinking, problem-solving and leadership skills among students while teaching respect and understanding. After conducting primary research and interviews to discover Unsung Heroes, students share these inspiring stories through student-driven plays, documentaries, art projects, websites and museum exhibits. Ultimately, Unsung Heroes projects help create lasting change in attitudes and behaviors within classrooms, schools and communities across the U.S. and throughout the world.

www.LowellMilkenCenter.org

LOWELL MILKEN CENTER FELLOWS

The LMC Fellowship unites top educators from the U.S. and around the world for a prestigious, merit-based professional development program that strengthens their ability to teach a unique and exciting discovery process rooted in project-based learning. During a week in Fort Scott, Kansas, LMC Fellows gain knowledge, educational resources and ongoing support to enhance their classrooms and help students cultivate a passion for learning by creating projects that initiate positive change in the world.

STUDENT COMPETITIONS

Illustrating its motto to Discover – Create – Change, LMC holds two annual competitions. The Discovery Award and The Art Effect Project offer students opportunities to compete for \$32,000 in prizes and an invaluable learning experience.

“ Whether they become doctors, research scientists, educators, entrepreneurs or diplomats, the common denominator of Milken Scholars is a genuine sense of service. ”

MICHAEL MILKEN

Founder, Milken Scholars



The Milken Scholars Program was founded in 1989 by Lori and Michael Milken to honor exceptional young men and women based on scholarship, leadership, service, character and triumphs over obstacles. Scholars are selected from New York, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles. The Program is another example of the deep commitment of the Milken Family Foundation for young people to pursue their educational goals.



DR. JOELLE SIMPSON

Medical Director of Emergency Preparedness
at Children’s National Health System
Washington, D.C. 1995 Milken Scholar

“ Milken Scholars are clearly the leaders to effect change and lead from a position of personal experience about topics such as education gaps, healthcare disparities or environmental issues. ”

www.MilkenScholars.org



MISSION STATEMENT

The Milken Family Foundation (MFF) strives to discover and advance inventive, effective ways of helping people help themselves and those around them lead productive and satisfying lives. Since 1982, MFF has pursued this mission through its work in education, medical research and public health.

In EDUCATION, MFF is committed to:

- Strengthening the profession by recognizing and rewarding outstanding educators, and by expanding their professional leadership and policy influence.
- Attracting, developing, motivating and retaining the best talent for the teaching profession.
- Stimulating creativity and productivity among young people and adults through programs that encourage learning as a lifelong process.
- Building vibrant communities by involving people of all ages in programs that contribute to their growth and well-being.

In MEDICAL RESEARCH and PUBLIC HEALTH, MFF is committed to:

- Advancing and supporting basic and applied medical research—especially in the field of cancer—to discover causes, treatments and ultimately cures.
- Improving public health awareness through education, research and practice.
- Supporting public health care programs to assure the well-being of community members of all ages.

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... to Ms. B on 9/19.

spic.com

Calendar: Sept.

24: Patrick - Mr. Peacock Int.

21: Noe

26 - SFC

27 - Ache

29 - Krista

October

Late 9/16-9/20
Reviews:

Casey
Melody
Interviews:

Upcoming Farms
- Quote Form

- Presentation

Sarah Berndt
2013 Wisconsin Milken Educator





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