Theodore and Margaret Beard Excellence in Teaching Award

Honoring Bridgeport Public School Teachers for Excellence in Education

NOMINATION PACKAGE
Deadline for Nominations:
January 27, 2016

Fairfield County’s Community Foundation
383 Main Avenue, 4th floor
Norwalk, CT 06851
Phone (203) 750-3200
Fax (203) 750-3232
Website: Fccfoundation.org
The Fairfield County’s Community Foundation promotes the growth of community and regional philanthropy to improve the quality of life throughout Fairfield County’s. Individuals, families, corporations and organizations can establish charitable funds or contribute to existing funds. The Foundation also provides philanthropic advisory services, and develops and leads initiatives to tackle critical community issues. It is in compliance with the Council on Foundations’ national standards for community foundations. The Foundation has awarded more than $197.8 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County’s and beyond.

Promoting high-quality education and closing the achievement gap have been and will continue to be priorities for the Fairfield County’s Community Foundation. Through the Beard Excellence in Teaching Award, we are pleased to recognize educators who are helping to shape the next generation of leaders within the Bridgeport, Connecticut community.

The Beard Award

The Theodore and Margaret Beard Excellence in Teaching Award acknowledges outstanding educational instructors within the Bridgeport public schools. Recipients of this award are recognized by their peers, students and the community as vital to the growth and continued development of education in Bridgeport. They are passionate about inspiring Bridgeport youth and growing the value of education.

Funded by a gift of Theodore and Margaret Beard, the Beard Excellence in Teaching Award reflects the family’s belief “that a good education is the most precious thing a child can be given.” As Connecticut natives, Theodore and Margaret attended public schools through high school in Bethel and Danbury and continued, throughout their lives, to believe in public education. In 2002, the Beard family developed the Theodore and Margaret Beard Excellence in Teaching Award, a permanently endowed fund that recognizes a public school teacher in Bridgeport each year.

Expectations for Beard Award Winners

Beard Excellence in Teaching Award winners are expected to demonstrate a high level of commitment to students in the Bridgeport Public Schools and to work with other Beard Excellence in Teaching Award winners, past and present, to share strategies and techniques with their colleagues that will help the district to meet its goals for student achievement. Winners are also expected to work with the Beard Excellence in Teaching Award Advisory Committee to enhance the recognition of excellent teachers in the Bridgeport Public Schools.

Winners of the 2016 Beard Excellence in Teaching Award will be eligible to receive a cash award of $25,000 that will be paid out in four installments in the spring of 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. In order to receive the annual cash installment, winners must be confirmed to be teachers in good standing in the Bridgeport Public Schools at the time of each installment.
Award Criteria & Selection Process

Inspiring educators can be nominated by community members, peers, students, parents, etc. and **must teach in a Bridgeport public school**. Competitive candidates for the Beard Excellence in Teaching Award exemplify professional excellence, as reflected in the excitement and enthusiasm for learning that students exhibit in the classrooms. Other contributions to quality education in Bridgeport that will add to a candidate’s appeal as a potential award recipient include his or her ability to:

- use creative and effective instructional strategies to inspire and meet the differing needs of students;
- use effective assessment strategies to evaluate, monitor, and improve student learning;
- demonstrate reflective practice and lifelong learning to improve teaching and student learning;
- demonstrate collegiality and a commitment to share best practices;
- use effective classroom management skills; and
- involve students’ families.

**In order to be considered for the award, nominated teachers must complete the Application Form for Nominated Teachers.** Nominated teachers will be notified of this step and forwarded the required form when nominations are processed. The Beard Excellence in Teaching Award Advisory Committee will recommend winners to the Foundation’s Board of Directors based on the nomination forms, letters of support, nominee applications, and site visits to selected classrooms. Winners of the Beard Excellence in Teaching Award will be announced in May 2016.
Theodore and Margaret Beard Excellence in Teaching Award Nomination Form

Complete the nomination form, along with letters of support (optional), and return to the Fairfield County’s Community Foundation by mail. Nominations must be submitted by January 27th, 2016. Complete one nomination form for each teacher.

You may use the nomination forms below or download a form from www.fccfoundation.org. Type or clearly print answers in the spaces provided. For questions, please contact Sharon Jones, Program Assistant, at the Fairfield County’s Community Foundation at 203-750-3219.

The nomination process:

1. Complete the nomination form, including the letter of nomination

2. Optional – co-nominators may also share their thoughts about what makes this teacher excellent through a letter of support (include no more than three letters with each nomination).

3. Send completed nomination packets (nomination form, letter of nomination and co-nominator letters of support) to the Fairfield County’s Community Foundation. Nominations must be received by January 27th, 2016. Nomination forms should be sent to:

   Beard Excellence in Teaching Award
   c/o Sharon Jones
   Fairfield County’s Community Foundation
   383 Main Ave., 4th Floor
   Norwalk, CT 06851

### Nominee Information

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>First name:</th>
<th>Last name:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total years teaching</td>
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<td>Years Teaching in Bridgeport:</td>
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<td>Subject(s) taught</td>
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<td>Grade(s) taught</td>
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<td>Home Phone ( ) -</td>
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<td>E-mail</td>
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<td>Name of Bridgeport school</td>
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**Nominator Information**

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<th>Name</th>
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<th>How do you know this teacher?</th>
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**Attach a Letter of Nomination**

Tell us why you think this teacher deserves to receive this award. You may wish to talk about:

- how the nominated teacher engages, inspires and motivates students;
- what creative and effective instructional strategies the nominee uses in the classroom;
- what effective assessment strategies the nominee uses to evaluate, monitor, and improve student learning;
- how the nominee demonstrates reflective practice and lifelong learning to improve teaching and student learning;
- how the nominee demonstrates collegiality and a commitment to share best practices; and
- how the nominee involves students’ families.

**Attach Letters of Support from Co-nominators - optional**

Students, parents, teachers or other community members who wish to co-nominate a teacher may submit a letter of support. Collect the letters of support and attach them to the completed nomination form before returning.

Please note: Each letter of support should include information about how the writer knows the teacher being nominated.

Please return the completed nomination packet (nomination form, letter of nomination and up to three letters of support from co-nominators, if applicable) to the Fairfield County’s Community Foundation. All nominations must be received by January 27th, 2016. Nomination forms should be mailed to:

Beard Excellence in Teaching Award  
c/o Sharon Jones, Program Assistant  
Fairfield County’s Community Foundation  
383 Main Ave., 4th Floor  
Norwalk, CT 06851

For questions, please contact Sharon Jones at the Fairfield County’s Community Foundation 203-750-3219.