



# NATIONAL LIBERTY MUSEUM

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***15 Delaware Valley Teachers Named NATIONAL LIBERTY MUSEUM and STATE FARM® “TEACHER AS HERO” WINNERS  
Significant annual program bestows honors on our Local “Classroom Heroes”***

**Philadelphia, PA, (March 13, 2011)** – Fifteen exceptional Philadelphia area educators will receive the annual National Liberty Museum “*Teacher As Hero*” awards, sponsored by State Farm®, on **Wednesday, March 23, during a 6:30 pm ceremony at the Museum.**

**The fifteen winners include teachers from Philadelphia (Lingelbach ES; Jay Cooke ES; Anna Blakiston Day School; Allen M. Stearne ES; St. Francis De Sales and School of the Future); New Jersey (Runnemedede’s Triton Regional HS; Camden’s Cramer College Preparatory Lab School) and Pennsylvania suburban schools (Ambler’s Mattison Ave. ES; Warminster’s Archbishop Wood HS; Lansdale’s North Penn HS, Pottstown’s YWCA Tri-County Area/Head Start and Milton Area Senior HS in Milton, PA)**

The “*Teacher As Hero*” honoree program, sponsored by State Farm®, recognizes outstanding educators for excellence, commitment, leadership, conflict resolution and community service despite today’s challenging circumstances in the school rooms. The annual program is judged by a panel of museum officials and educators representing the finalists from throughout the tri-state area. All winners will receive special awards of recognition and their schools will receive additional training and resources to enhance the achievements of all students.

“Our honorees excel at preparing the next generation of Philadelphians and beyond for future challenges,” said Gwen Borowsky, CEO and Vice President of the National Liberty Museum. “All teachers make a footprint on a student’s life, but our winners make a deeper one than others. In many huge or small ways, they build roadways in life. Asking ‘What is your need? - I can help.’ We are grateful to them for going the extra mile beyond the classroom -- with creativity, dedication and inspiration.”

“On March 23, we salute our real heroes. We, at State Farm®, recognize the passion to teach during challenging times is a unique gift. As the saying goes, “Teachers give you something to take home to think about – besides homework.” All of these educators’ accomplishments reflect the very best of our area,” said Dave Phillips of State Farm®.

**The following recipients of the “*Teacher As Hero*” Award include:**

**Mary Jane Chambers-Triton Regional HS, Runnemede, NJ**

*(Multi-talented, Creative, American History teacher and Peer Mediation leader who was chosen 'Triton Educator of the Year' for her passionate work with students, teachers and colleagues. Her students consistently score among the highest in South Jersey on the AP US History Test.)*

**Mike Conn-Milton Area Senior HS, Milton, PA**

*(With his passionate International Perspective, this Social Studies teacher led a group of students to succeed in a valiant effort ("Project Cambodia") to Raise \$30,000 and Build a Classroom in rural Cambodia.)*

**Jami Evans-Cramer College Preparatory Lab School, Camden, NJ**

*(A True Hero to her students and their parents who struggled with Reading Skills - before entering her first grade classroom. A Role Model to her colleagues, she has Mentored students from Rowan and Rutgers Universities.)*

**Gerri Garofalo-Archbishop Wood HS, Warminster, PA**

*(Compassionate, Sociology and Psychology teacher, who made a deliberate choice to become an Educator and Community leader, where the need is the greatest, dedicating her work to Diversity Education and combating Cyber-Bullying. Teaching at the same school since 1972, she Mentors New Teachers in Diversity Training.)*

**Madeline Glowienka- Lingelbach ES, Philadelphia**

*Innovative teacher and volleyball coach for over 18 years specializing in Character Education. Long time advocate for EARTHFORCE (program studying water preservation and recycling) and developer of Community Gardening projects. The success of the class gardening projects led her to reach out to Weaver's Way, a food cooperative, to prepare selling low cost, healthy food alternatives for the school's population. She and her class won PSD 1<sup>st</sup> Place Character Education Award and Schuylkill Action Network Award.)*

**David Hall-North Penn HS, Lansdale, PA**

*(A civil rights activist, he encourages students to 'Disagree!' and excels in the art of Active Teaching by taking them into courtrooms and prisons of Philadelphia. Voted 2010 Teacher Most Likely to be Remembered in 10 years; 2006 Most Creative Teacher; 2010 Educator of the Year Runner-Up Award from the GLSE Network for his visionary leadership as a teacher & Gay-Straight Alliance Advisor. Additionally, he has reached into the corporate, academic and government worlds by teaching the importance of equality to audiences ranging from Merck, UPENN and NJ DOE. Member of Council of 'Out & Equal' and PA Council for Social Studies; Passionate worker for Safer Places in Schools by impacting social culture so students will not face discrimination of any kind.)*

**Andrene Henderson-Jay Cooke ES, Philadelphia**

*(Veteran Math and Science teacher for 18 years exhibiting exemplary leadership, for the nurturing and caring of her students. She uses methods to make 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra relevant to students with Learning Challenges. Implements 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology Skills in the classroom and makes them accessible to support Special Students in need of private attention.)*

**Lynn Jacobs-Anna Blakiston Day School - Philadelphia**

*(A Dedicated teacher who Volunteered to be the Expressive Arts Teacher, a vacancy created by the lack of funding, for the school's Music and Arts programming. Additionally, she oversees a unique program for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls called "Investment Club" where she helps students through the often confusing times of adolescence.)*

**Carolyn Kivenias-Allen M. Stearne ES – Philadelphia**

*(Compassionate educator with 39 years of teaching experience in Philadelphia. A model teacher for Literacy Initiative for many years, her teaching techniques have been videotaped and distributed as a teaching tool to demonstrate exemplary style and content. Advocate of 'Open Door Policy' for teachers and named 'Most Trustworthy' by staff while coordinating school's 'Biggest Loser' Contest - for maintaining each participant's weight and statistics in a confidential manner.)*

**Katerina Luckett-YWCA Tri-County Area/Pottstown Head Start – Pottstown, PA,**

*(Dedicated Assistant at Head Start and Group Supervisor at YWCA, she is a promoter of Diversity and Wellness Programs for over 22 years. She teaches in a High Crime district, and recently diffused a Life Threatening Confrontation with a disgruntled parent.)*

**Jessica Marine – St. Francis De Sales – Philadelphia**

*(A passionate teacher of Life Lessons, she makes education relevant by using topics that speak to student experiences and conditions such as the Dangers of 'sexting' and Cyber Bullying. She maintains a 'Safe Classroom' - a Neutral Zone where students can voice their dreams or fears without ridicule.)*

**Elizabeth Harvey, Kate Hayes, Kendall Johnson-McArthur– Trio of Teachers from the School of the Future Teachers – Philadelphia**

*("Dream Team" of Educators that began Initiative to Reward Students for Positive Behavior to put them on the right path and keep them out of trouble- before entering it. Students are recognized for Good Grades and Perfect Attendance with school wide shout-outs to create a buzz and excitement within the school halls. The Team goes beyond the classroom walls to help students with the following examples: ensuring each student has a Post Graduate plan; arranging Tutoring from Villanova students; providing Winter Coats for students, making sure families have a Holiday Meal and even providing makeup sessions for prom goers.)*

**Donna Wolfert –Mattison Avenue ES – Ambler, PA**

*(Devoted Guidance Counselor who created a real Sense of Community not only involving problem solving with students but also providing insight for situations that arise with adults. For the last 8 years, she has developed and maintained the "Connections Mentoring Program," an Adult Mentoring Program that helps children build Self Esteem and grow emotionally and socially.)*

**MEDIA RSVP APPRECIATED.** Detailed winner summaries and advance interviews are available by contacting Jan Griesemer – 215-925-2800, ext. 124 or [jgriesemer@libertymuseum.org](mailto:jgriesemer@libertymuseum.org).

**Interviews with awardees may also be held the date of event, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 pm at the National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street in Philadelphia.**

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*The National Liberty Museum is dedicated to preserving freedom and democracy by fostering good character and understanding of all people. The museum's exhibits of glass art – combined with heroes from around the world – inspire visitors to appreciate the strength and fragility and democracy and recognize the role we all play in safeguarding our freedom. The Museum is open 10am-5pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Open 12-6pm on Sundays. The facility is fully wheelchair accessible. For more information, call 215-925-2800 or visit [www.libertymuseum.org](http://www.libertymuseum.org). Visit us on facebook!*