



Champions of Character Banquet

2014 Banquet

2014 Champions of Character Banquet Keynote:

[CLICK HERE](#) to access "Why Character Education Matters," presented by Rhonda Taylor, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Unlondale School District

Award Winners

Lifetime Achievement: Mel Horowitz, Catskill CSD (retired), Academy for Character Education volunteer

Volunteer of the Year: Maureen Flanigan, Averill Park CSD

Teacher Leaders:

- Dianne Mosher – Berlin High School, Berlin CSD
- Dr. Britton Schnurr – School Psychologist, Guilderland CSD
- Janice Toomajian – Tamarac Elementary Librarian, Brittonkill CSD
- Kelly Bullis – Band Teacher, Drama Director, SCAT-PAC Advisor, Roscoe CSD
- Sarah Lovell – Hoosic Valley Elementary School, Hoosic Valley CSD

Athletic & Civic: Bob Ford, University at Albany Football Coach (retired)

School Administrator: Ken Facin – Superintendent, Hoosick Falls CSD

University Leader: Dr. Katharine Briar Lawson, Dean, School of Social Welfare, University at Albany

Educational Advocates:

- Jesse A. Saperstein, author, motivational speaker, Anti-Bullying and autism advocate
- Josephine Bila, beta thalassemia major advocate and FDA expert patient consultant

Character Education Literature: Michael Buchanan & Diane Lang, authors of *The Fat Boy Chronicles*

Student Organization: FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America), Karen Thomas, NYS Coordinator

Community Volunteer: Richard Muggeo, Catskill CSD (Retired)

Parent Leader: Thearse McCalmon, Schenectady City SD

Student Leaders:

- Sabrina Cravin – Carroll Hill Elementary School, Troy CSD
- Mikayla Kipp – Roscoe CSD
- Sarah Cheney – Shaker HS, North Colonie CSD

Community Leadership in Education: Emma Willard School, A 200 Year Legacy of Educational Leadership

Civic Organization: Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, Mark Quandt, Executive Director

Civic Leader: William Corbett, President of Capital Region Sponsor-A-Scholar Inc.

Business Organization: Stewart's Shops, Gary Dake, President

Business Leader: Victory Lynn Riedy, Ed.M, entrepreneur, Founder, Victory Child Care Inc.

New York State Schools of Character

- West Sand Lake Elementary, Averill Park CSD
- Harrison Avenue School, South Glens Falls CSD
- Canandaigua Middle School, Canandaigua CSD
- Central Square School District
- Smith Street School, Uniondale UFSD
- Grand Avenue School, Uniondale UFSD

Honorable Mention:

- Lawrence Middle School, Lawrence UFSD
- Number 4 School, Lawrence UFSD
- Mildred E. Strang Middle School, Yorktown Heights CSD
- Lawrence Road Middle School, Uniondale UFSD
- Byron-Bergen School District

EMERGING SCHOOLS/DISTRICTS OF CHARACTER:

- Valley Stream J.H.S., Valley Stream CHSD
- Jonas E. Salk Middle School, Levittown CSD
- Voorheesville Elementary School, Voorheesville CSD

Sage Colleges Champions of Character:

Administration: Jill Grebert, Director of Recreation & Fitness, Coordinator of Allies Program

Faculty: Dr. Laurae (Herbi) Coburn, Professor of Professional School Counseling Masters Degree Program

Staff: Joanne (Jody) Diedrich, Coordinator of Conferences & Events

Students: Russell Sage College - Grace Koehler

Sage College of Albany - Megan Lugo

OUR COLLEGES

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Esteves School of Education
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