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McDonald's Hosts Golden Apple Finalist Breakfast

FORT MYERS, FL: Thirty finalists of the Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program attended a breakfast held in their honor and hosted by McDonald's on Friday, February 19th. The annual breakfast provides an opportunity for several local business and community partners, along with school board members and the superintendent, to meet and recognize the 2016 Golden Apple Finalists. Finalists' photos will be featured on local McDonald's tray liners for several weeks leading up to the Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Banquet on Friday, April 8th.

McDonald's, represented by Tim Fenton, hosted the breakfast and unveiled the new tray liners to be used in local restaurants starting February 19th. Teachers were treated to breakfast and given an opportunity to network with local business and community leaders and their fellow Golden Apple Finalists.

"McDonald's and all of our sponsors are business partners who keenly understand that the cornerstone for a thriving community is a quality education for our greatest asset: our students," says Marshall T. Bower, President and CEO of The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools. "The Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program gives us the opportunity to focus on the excellent teachers making a positive impact in Lee County."

Attendees included Superintendent Dr. Greg Adkins, School Board Members Steven K. Teuber, Pam LaRiviere, Cathleen Morgan, and Mary Fischer. Also in attendance were Edison National Bank President Robbie Roepstorff; Trevett Capital Partners Executive Vice President and Managing Director Brent Crawford; Chico's FAS, Inc. Learning & Development Manager Erin Lansberry; Lee Memorial Health System Project Consultant in Corporate Administration Sally Jackson; and Suncoast Credit Union Regional Vice President Greg Pasanen.

This year, more than 2,000 teachers were nominated for the Golden Apple Teacher Award and almost 300 applications were submitted. The Golden Apple Selection Committee, made up of community and business leaders, have been personally interviewing and observing the Finalists in their classrooms as they narrow them down to the six Golden Apple Award Recipients. The Recipients will be honored at the 29th Annual Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Banquet, a black-tie affair held at Harborside Event Center.

29th Annual Golden Apple Award Finalists:

Joelle Beverly – Bayshore Elementary
Courtney Black – Mariner Middle
Stephanie Blanchard – Pinewoods Elementary
Leslie Cornwell – Cape Coral High
Jennifer DeCicco – J. Colin English Elementary
Mark Drew – Fort Myers High
Jillian Edel – Harns Marsh Elementary
Denise Fenicle – North Fort Myers Academy
for the Arts
Wendy Fiore – Cypress Lake Middle
Gwen Gregg – North Fort Myers High
Dr. Virginia Harper – South Fort Myers High
Susie Hassett – Dr. Carrie D. Robinson
Littleton Elementary
Anne Hester – Riverdale High
Nichole Howell – Gateway Elementary
Karen Kuzer – Cypress Lake Middle

Dr. Phyllis Lampman – Skyline Elementary
Sandy Lantz – Edison Park Creative &
Expressive Arts Elementary
Michelle Lewis – Lehigh Elementary
Kelly Mains – Tortuga Preserve Elementary
Monica Nelson – Heights Elementary
Dr. Mercedes Pichard – Dunbar High
Wendy Samz – Challenger Middle
Quinn Schnabel – Diplomat Middle
Jane Short Garland – Lexington Middle
Milagros Sowers – East Lee County High
Cherie Sukovich – The Alva School
Jason Thomashefsky – Rayma C. Page
Elementary
Ann Tikka – Caloosa Middle
Joy Williams – Cypress Lake Middle
Christian Lin Zimmerman – Cypress Lake High

The Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program™ was the first major project founded and developed by The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc. Since its inception twenty-nine years ago, as a way to enhance public education by recognizing and rewarding excellence in teaching, the Foundation has awarded 165 educators with the prestigious “Golden Apple.”

About The Foundation: The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc. is a private, 501(c)3 organization established in 1986. Its mission is to enhance and enrich the quality of public education in Lee County for students and educators through programs, resources, and experiences made possible through corporate, individual, and educational partnerships. The Foundation is rated as a 4-star nonprofit organization by Charity Navigator. Find us online at www.leeschoolfoundation.org, on Twitter @FoundationLCPS, and on Facebook.

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If you would like more information about the Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program™ or to schedule an interview with Marshall T. Bower, President and CEO of The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, please contact Margo Brewster at 239-337-0433 or Margo@LeeSchoolFoundation.org