

2014- 2015 Golden Apple Excellence in Education Nominations

- Mrs. Helgeson & Mrs. Hansel, St. Stephen
- Jenny Costello, SPACS & SPAPSD
- Mrs. Bonnie Ruffedt, St. Joseph Early Childhood Center
- Bryant White, SPACS / Pacelli
- Kathryn Doar, Mid-State Technical College
- Jeffery Tepp, Ben Franklin Jr. High
- Susan Kollross, J.F. Kennedy Elementary School
- Ms. Roth, J.F. Kennedy Elementary School
- Ms. Bach, J.F. Kennedy Elementary School
- Mrs. Korger, McDill Elementary School
- Megan Dewall, Ben Franklin Jr. High
- Mrs. Stuetzgen, McDill Elementary School
- Steve VanArk, Plover Whiting Elementary School
- Ms. Lori Lampert, Plover Whiting Elementary School
- Mrs. April Gosse, Plover Whiting Elementary School
- Mrs. Tubbs, Ben Franklin Jr. High
- Mrs. Liz Peterson, McKinley Elementary School
- Kristen Luteyn, Madison Elementary School
- Lauri Sroda, Madison Elementary School
- Mrs. Kate Hardina, McDill Elementary School
- Mrs. Linda Vanderloop, McKinley Elementary School
- Mrs. Shupe, Ben Franklin Jr. High
- Lori Knepfel, Plover Whiting Elementary School
- Mrs. Behrens, Roosevelt Elementary School
- Mr. Arthur Greco, Ben Franklin Jr. High
- Mr. Steve Treankler, Ben Franklin Jr. High
- Shashank Srivastava, UWSP
- Josh Hames, PJ Jacobs Junior High
- Janet Taylor, St. Bronislava
- Julie Kolarik, Ben Franklin Jr. High
- Amy Randazzo, Ben Franklin Jr. High
- Leanne Krutza, Plover Whiting Elementary
- Joshua Wood, Ben Franklin Jr High
- Ann Zdroik, St. Stephen

A student would like to recognize **Jeffery Tepp**, a Computer Apps teacher at Ben Franklin Jr High , for his excellence in education. **“For teaching us the basics of computers and doing awesome projects.”**

A student would like to recognize **Susan Kollross**, a 4th grade teacher at Kennedy Elementary School, for her excellence in education. **“She really cared about each students education and would try everything to help you learn. She would never give up on you and she would make learning fun.”**

A student would like to recognize **Mrs. Kollross** and **Ms. Roth**, 4th and 6th grade teachers at J.F. Kennedy Elementary School, for their excellence in education. **“They are both very talented and amazing. I had both of them. They are kind and I miss them very much.”**

A student would like to recognize **Ms. Roth** and **Ms Bach**, 7th grade teachers at J.F. Kennedy Elementary School, for their excellence in education. **“They prepared me for life and taught me how to stay strong when life gets you down. 😊 SMILE”**

A student would like to recognize **Mrs. Korgor**, a Special Education teacher at McDill Elementary School, for her excellence in education. **“Thank you for helping me to be a better student.”**

A student would like to recognize **Megan Dewall**, a 7th grade teacher at Ben Franklin Jr High, for her excellence in education. **“I would like to recognize Mrs. Megan Dewall because she is an amazing teacher and when I think I can’t do it, she cheers me on. Mrs. Dewall also is super supportive and helpful.”**

A student would like to recognize **Mrs. Stuetgen**, a 3rd grade teacher at McDill Elementary School, for her excellence in education. **“She helped me to become a better person and student.”**

A student would like to recognize **Steve VanArk**, a 5th grade teacher at Plover Whiting Elementary, for his excellence in education. **“He made 5th and 6th grade the nicest and most important of all the years I’ve been in school. He completely changed the way I think.”**

A former student would like to recognize **Ms. Lori Lampert**, a 5th grade teacher at Plover Whiting Elementary School, for her excellence in education. **“I would like to recognize Lori Lampert for excellence in education because she is enthusiastic and happy all the time when she teaches. She is very helpful and organized and shows a passion for teaching.”**

A student would like to recognize **Mrs. April Gosse**, a 5th grade teacher at Plover Whiting Elementary School, for her excellence in education. **“Mrs Gosse is a wonderful teacher who is very kind and is always helpful. She handles the class very well and is a great person to be around. She taught me a lot of things that I still remember.”**

A student would like to recognize **Mrs. Tubbs**, a 7th grade teacher at Ben Franklin Jr. High, for her excellence in education. **“Mrs. Tubbs is a very nice and organized person in math class, you teach very good, I may not be smart but a great person, and you help me a lot! I appreciate it very much!”**

A student would like to recognize **Mrs. Liz Peterson**, a 4th grade teacher at McKinley Elementary School, for her excellence in education. **“Her homework revolved around imagination. No matter what problem she went through, she was as nice as possible.”**

A former student would like to recognize **Kristin Luteyn**, a 5th grade teacher at Madison Elementary School, for her excellence in education. **“She was kind and treated everyone equally. She also helped everyone and tried to get everyone to work to their full potential.”**

A former student would like to recognize **Lauri Sroda**, a Kindergarten teacher at Madison Elementary School, for her excellence in education. **“She helped me to learn to love to read and write. She also helped my class to be ourselves.”**

A student would like to recognize **Mrs. Hardina**, a 6th grade teacher at McDill Elementary School, for her excellence in education. **“Her ability to teach and make it so you understand the lesson. She is also very funny and nice.”**

A student would like to recognize **Mrs. Kate Hardina**, a 6th grade teacher at McDill Elementary School, for her excellence in education. **“I would like to recognize Mrs. Hardina because she was a great teacher who helped everyone. Mrs. Hardina always helped people according to their needs.”**

A community member would like to recognize **Mrs. Linda VanderLoop**, a Learning Disabilities teacher at McKinley Elementary School, for her excellence in education. **“I would like to nominate my mom, Linda VanderLoop, because in my eyes she is one of the hardest working teachers I know. Although I didn’t have her as a teacher, I know that she is passionate about her job and a very good teacher.”**

A student would like to recognize **Mrs. Shupe**, a 7th grade teacher at Ben Franklin Jr. High, for her excellence in education. **“She helps me when I need it and she helps me to get better at reading.”**

A student would like to recognize **Lori Knepfel**, a 6th grade teacher at Plover Whiting Elementary School, for her excellence in education. **“Mrs. Knepfel changed my life. She encouraged my education and helped me whenever I needed her. She is the best teacher ever.”**

A teacher/staff member would like to recognize **Mrs. Behrens**, a 6th grade teacher at Roosevelt Elementary School, for her excellence in education. **“[She] was really nice and understood her students.”**

A student would like to recognize **Mr. Arthur Greco**, a 7th grade Business and Career Skills teacher at Ben Franklin Jr High, for his excellence in education. **“He teaches you life skills you will need to know to grow up and get a job. He teaches you seven skills: listening, communication-written and verbal, leadership, organization, problem solving, and decision making.”**

A student would like to recognize **Mr. Arthur Greco**, a 7th grade Business and Career Skills teacher at Ben Franklin Jr High, for his excellence in education. **“Mr. Greco made learning in class fun & easy. He helped us find our inner-self, and knowledge (power). Seems like a teacher who knows his stuff.”**

A student would like to recognize **Mr. Arthur Greco, Mrs. Shupe, and Mr. Treankler**, 7th grade teachers at Ben Franklin Jr High, for their excellence in education. **“They are hard on me and don’t baby me. They tell me real life and are very kind and generous.”**

A student would like to recognize **Mr. Arthur Greco**, a 7th grade Business and Career Skills teacher at Ben Franklin Jr High, for his excellence in education. **“because he is a kind and funny person and he wants us to do our best and if there is something in your way. Thank you for teaching me everything, it means a lot. “**

A student would like to recognize **Mr. Arthur Greco**, a 7th grade Business and Career Skills teacher at Ben Franklin Jr High, for his excellence in education. **“He helped me through tough times.”**

A student would like to recognize **Mr. Arthur Greco**, a 7th grade Business and Career Skills teacher at Ben Franklin Jr High, for his excellence in education. **“because he showed me I can try way harder than I think I can”**

A student would like to recognize **Mr. Arthur Greco**, a 7th grade Business and Career Skills teacher at Ben Franklin Jr High, for his excellence in education. **“For helping myself and others understand that we are the most important person in the room and guiding us to our futures.”**

A student would like to recognize **Mr. Arthur Greco**, a 7th grade Business and Career Skills teacher at Ben Franklin Jr High, for his excellence in education. **“Mr. Greco pushes students far. When I first joined this class, I thought I would be super nervous. He’s a guy who’s tough, but not tough if you have knowledge.”**

A student would like to recognize **Mr. Arthur Greco**, a 7th grade Business and Career Skills teacher at Ben Franklin Jr High, for his excellence in education. **“helped me work under pressure”**

A student would like to recognize **Mr. Arthur Greco**, a 7th grade Business and Career Skills teacher at Ben Franklin Jr High, for his excellence in education. **“Mr. Greco taught me that I am the most important person in the room and knowledge [is] power. He also taught me how to have a good future in the business world.”**

A student would like to recognize **Mr. Arthur Greco**, a 7th grade Business and Career Skills teacher at Ben Franklin Jr High, for his excellence in education. **“Mr. Greco has taught me to put myself first and that has raised my confidence. I love the way Mr. Greco teaches our class.”**

A member of the administration would like to recognize **Kathryn Doar**, an IT-Networking Instructor and Associate Dean at Mid-State Technical College, for her excellence in education. **“...Kathryn’s first priority is her students. She helps and challenges them to learn technical and interpersonal skills that will ensure their success in the workforce. She coordinates *real-world* experiences for her students by arranging for them to provide technical assistance to local organizations, such as the Boys and Girls Club, the Children’s Museum and the YMCA. She keeps herself up to date on the latest networking technologies to ensure her students graduate with the most current knowledge possible. Her dedication to her students has resulted in amazing retention and graduation rates, providing rewarding careers to her students and valuable additions to the local workforce...”**

A student would like to recognize **Bryant White**, a math teacher at Pacelli / [Stevens Point Area Catholic Schools](#) , for his excellence in education. **“He is an awesome teacher with a kind heart, who loves teaching math. He also has helped his students with their journey in becoming better people.”**

A teacher/staf member would like to recognize **Mrs. Bonnie Ruffedt**, a child care teacher sub at St. Joseph Early Childhood Center, for her excellence in education. **“Bonnie Ruffedt is a shining example of what we all should strive for as a professional educator. Bonnie is punctual, reliable, respectful, kind, concerned, and selfless when interacting not only with the children, but also staff. All qualities we hope our children will mimic as they grow. As a retired reading teacher, Bonnie’s love for reading and literacy is obvious in the way she brings a book to life every time she reads to the children....”**

A parent would like to recognize **Jenny Costello**, a 4K teacher at SPACS /St. Stan’s & SPAPSD, for her excellence in education. **“Jenny has been an incredible 4K teacher for my daughter this year. She has learned many new things. Jenny also understands the different levels each kid is at. She has found creative ways to challenge my daughter with both her educational and social skills. She has found ways to encourage my daughter’s leadership. If we have brought her a particular habit that we are trying to work on, Jenny is right there to help us and she provides great feedback. She also provides personal touches in the daily notebook that comes home. I can tell that she really cares about each of her kids.”**

A parent would like to recognize **Elizabeth Helgeson & Kathy Hansel**, 3rd grade teachers at SPACS /St. Stephen, for their excellence in education. **“My son was having difficulty with reading, math, and various other subjects. He also had some speech problems. Mrs. Helgeson is his primary teacher and with the help of Mrs. Hansel we had Luke evaluated for his learning needs. Luke was diagnosed for an attention problem and his speech needs were addressed as well! The attention my son has received from these wonderful teachers has been incredible! His grades have turned around and he is succeeding in his school work. He seems more confident in his abilities and loves school. Mrs. Helgeson and Mrs. Hansel are incredible teachers!”**

A student would like to recognize **Shashank Srivastava**, a professor of philosophy at UW-Stevens Point, for his excellence in education. **“Prof. Srivastava firstly respects all his students and is compassionate while also critical and encouraging. His classroom brought about a lot of questions. He always encouraged us to ask more questions. His classroom and approach to teaching and studying touched my life and those who are closest to me.”**

A parent would like to recognize **Janet Taylor**, a teacher at St. Bronislava Stevens Point Area Catholic Schools, for her excellence in education. **“Mrs. Taylor was an attentive and supportive teacher to my child in 4th grade. This year she is the Art teacher too. My child still mentions the words of encouragement she receives from Mrs. Taylor, and those words of encouragement seem to come when needed most. Kudos to Mrs. Taylor.”**

A student would like to recognize **Julie Kolarik**, a 9th grade environmental science teacher at Ben Franklin Jr. High Stevens Point Area Public School District, for her excellence in education. **“She pushes people to be better. Others are scared of her because she has high expectations.”**

A former student would like to recognize **Amy Randazzo**, a 8th grade English teacher at Ben Franklin Jr. High Stevens Point Area Public School District, for her excellence in education. **“She is very kind and helpful. She is a teacher that truly cares about how you are doing. She is overall a great teacher and person.”**

A teacher/staff member would like to recognize **Leanne Krutza**, a kindergarten teacher at Plover Whiting Elementary Stevens Point Area Public School District, for her excellence in education. **“The most amazing, caring, dedicated educator you could ever wish for your child at this age. Goes above and beyond all expectations providing high quality education with critical nurturing and individualized lessons!”**

A student would like to recognize **Joshua Wood**, an 8th grade social studies teacher at Ben Franklin Jr High Stevens Point Area Public School District, for his excellence in education. **“He was a great football coach—taught me tons of things I didn’t know. He is an outstanding teacher when it comes to social studies. He explains it very well.”**

A teacher would like to recognize **Ann Zdroik**, a staff member at St. Stephen Stevens Point Area Catholic Schools , for her excellence in education. **“...she never lets anyone settle for anything less than their best. She is compassionate, caring, and makes everyone feel important and welcomed. She makes personal connections, gives healthy demands and pushes students to the top. She has a passion for the subject matter being taught and she challenges students to think beyond just the answer in the textbook...”**

A community member would like to recognize **Josh Hames**, a 7th grade science teacher at PJ Jacobs Junior High Stevens Point Area Public School District, for his excellence in education. **“Josh is a high-energy, hard-working, compassionate teacher. He takes the time to truly get to know his students, and does what he can to help them both inside and outside of the classroom. Although Josh is only a first year teacher, he is constantly working to improve the way he teaches. When asked what his favorite part of his job is, it would be his students – hands down. He also serves as a 7th grade football coach, science club adviser, weight room adviser, and a teach advocate for MySciLife. ”**