Theodore and Margaret Beard Excellence in Teaching Award

Honoring Bridgeport Public School Teachers for Excellence in Education

NOMINATION PACKAGE
For Bridgeport Public School Principals & Associate Principals

Deadline for Nominations:
January 20, 2017

Bridgeport Public Education Fund, Inc.
446 University Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604
203-331-0551
The Beard Award

The Theodore and Margaret Beard Excellence in Teaching Award acknowledges outstanding and inspirational classroom teachers 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 at the Fairfield County’s Community Foundation 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 who will be encouraged to participate in New Teacher Orientation, work with professional learning communities in the district, and serve on the “Superintendent’s Teacher Leader Advisory Committee”.

Winners of the 2017 Beard Excellence in Teaching Award will receive a cash award of $20,000 that will be paid out in three installments. Ten thousand dollars will be paid out in the spring of 2017, $5,000 in 2018, and $5,000 in 2019. 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 principals or associate principals. Nominees must be tenured teachers 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.

In order to be considered for the award, the teacher(s) you nominate will receive an application form which must be completed and returned by Wednesday, February 15, 2017. Winners of the Beard Excellence in Teaching Award will be announced in March, 2017.

Theodore and Margaret Beard Excellence in Teaching Award Nomination Form

Complete the nomination form and return to the Bridgeport Public Education Fund electronically or by mail. Nominations must be submitted by January 20, 2017. Complete one nomination form for each teacher.

You may use the nomination forms below or download a form from www.bpef.org. Type or clearly print answers in the spaces provided. For questions, please contact Marge Hiller, Executive Director of the Bridgeport Public Education Fund or Ann Langley, Beard Award consultant at (203) 331-0551.

The nomination process:

1. Please complete the nomination form, including no more than six letters of support
2. Send the completed application form and narrative to:

   Bridgeport Public Education Fund
   446 University Avenue
   Bridgeport, CT 06604
   or
   www.bpef.org

*Nominations must be dated by January 20, 2017
Nominee Information

Name
First name: Last name:

Total years teaching
Years Teaching in Bridgeport:

Subject(s) and/or grades taught

Home Phone
Email (home)

Home Address:
Street: City: State: Zip:

E-mail (school)
School Phone

Name of Bridgeport school

Nominator Information

Name
First name: Last name:

Home phone
( ) -

Address
Street:
City/State:
Zip code:

E-mail Address (home)

How do you know this teacher?

Nomination Letter

Write a two-page letter addressing these criteria points:

- 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

Students, parents, teachers or other community members who wish 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 letters of support) by January 20, 2017.