



**EMBARGOED UNTIL 9:00 a.m., Oct. 20th**

**NEWS ADVISORY ISSUED:**

**Wednesday, October 19, 2011**

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## **Educator to Receive Surprise Award of \$25,000 for Great Teaching Thursday, October 20 at Glastonbury High School at 9:00 a.m.**

(GLASTONBURY, CONN.) State Education Commissioner Stefan Pryor and officials from the Milken Family Foundation will travel to Glastonbury High School on Thursday, October 20, 2011 to present an unrestricted \$25,000 award to an unsuspecting teacher.

The teacher has been nominated without his/her knowledge and thus the announcement will come as a surprise to nearly everyone in the assembly. In addition to the \$25,000 check, the awardee will receive an all expenses paid trip to California to attend the Milken Family Foundation Educator Forum, which focuses on solutions to challenges facing public education today.

This year, a total of \$1.3 million in Awards will be presented to more than 50 of America's finest secondary educators throughout the country.

The media is welcome to attend.

### **Location of event:**

Glastonbury High School  
330 Hubbard Street  
Glastonbury, CT 06033  
(860) 652-7200

**MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION  
2011 NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARDS  
FACT SHEET – CONNECTICUT**

**The Awards**

The Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards provide recognition and unrestricted financial awards of \$25,000 each to exceptional elementary and secondary school teachers, principals and specialists who are furthering excellence in our nation’s schools. This year, a total of \$1.3 million in Awards will be presented to more than 50 of America’s finest secondary educators.

New Milken Educators also receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Los Angeles, CA, to participate in the Milken Educator Forum focused on solutions to America’s pressing challenges in education today.

**National Notifications**

Each year exceptional educators—considered without their knowledge by a blue-ribbon panel appointed by each state’s department of education—are surprised with the news of their \$25,000 Awards, which they can use in any way they choose. These announcements are made during emotional assemblies held at each recipient’s school, and are attended by students and peers, as well as federal, state and local officials, and the media.

**Key Statistics**

**National**

- More than 50 recipients across the country
- \$1.3 million to be awarded
- More than 2,400 recipients since inception (including new recipients)
- Over \$60 million in awards since inception

**Connecticut**

- **\$25,000** to be awarded in **Connecticut**
- **1 Connecticut** recipient in 2009-2011
- **90** recipients since program began in **Connecticut**
- **\$2,250,000** awarded in **Connecticut** since program began.

**History**

This is the 25<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Milken Educator Awards, first presented by the Milken Family Foundation in 1987.

**Connecticut** joined the Milken Educator Awards program in **1988**.

**Milken Educator Forum**

The 2011 Milken Educator Forum will be an inspirational, national gathering of award-winning educators who will explore their roles and responsibilities in increasing teacher effectiveness and in sharing innovative strategies that make a powerful impact on students. Hosted by the Milken Family Foundation in Los Angeles, CA, this spring, the Forum will celebrate, elevate and activate the newest class of Milken Educator Award recipients. The program will range from plenary sessions addressing broad issues facing educators today to small group discussions, and culminate with the presentation of the \$25,000 Milken Educator Awards to honorees at a recognition dinner and ceremony.

**Milken Family Foundation**

The Milken Family Foundation was established in 1982 to discover and advance inventive and effective ways of helping people help themselves and those around them lead productive and satisfying lives. The Foundation advances this mission primarily through its work in education and medical research.

**Contacts**

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