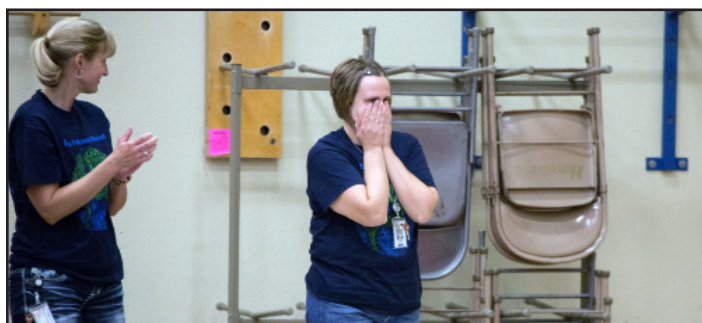


SIoux FALLS TEACHER WINS NATIONAL AWARD

• LEEANNA RABINE AWARDED “OSCAR” OF TEACHING



LeeAnna Rabine, kindergarten teacher at Hawthorne Elementary, was named a 2014 Milken Educator Award Winner on Friday.

One of Rabine's key strengths is her ability to build genuine relationships with students as well as parents. A large percentage of her students at Hawthorne Elementary are economically challenged with many English Language Learners. Yet Rabine sets high expectations for all, even welcoming children with behavioral issues.

She designs standards-based lessons, stays abreast of best teaching practices and uses American Sign Language and vocabulary strategies to develop background knowledge required for learning new concepts.

By creating a positive and nurturing environment in her classroom, students feel safe to thrive.

To enhance students' literary skills, Rabine designed a special pen pal program for her youngsters with high school students in Minnesota. She welcomes parent volunteers and invites community members, from the bank for example, in to mentor students in the classroom and got a local dentist to donate toothbrushes so that students could brush their teeth after lunch, only to realize that some of the children had never brushed their teeth before.

She teaches parents how to read to their children and offers other coaching on parenting skills. If parents miss their child's conference, Rabine does not give up but visits at home.

Outside of the classroom, she mentors new and veteran teachers. She is a member of the Hawthorne development team and the Circle of Courage Behavior team among others.

Highly professional, she worked to align the Common Core to kindergarten and first-grade curriculum, and serves on the district curriculum committee. Rabine was videotaped modeling collaboration with colleagues and has recorded a presentation for all kindergarten parents, which is shown on district television.

Established in 1987 as an initiative of the Milken Family Foundation, the Milken Educator Awards program rewards and inspires

excellence in the world of education by honoring top educators around the country with \$25,000 unrestricted awards.

Not an accolade for “lifetime achievement” or the proverbial gold watch at the exit door, the Milken Educator Awards targets early-to-mid career education professionals for their already impressive achievements and, more significantly, for the promise of what they will accomplish in the future.

To date, more than 2,600 Awards have been given out, totaling over \$65 million.

The one-time award is just the beginning. Milken Educators are given access to powerful networking and development tools throughout their careers in education. When combined, more than \$137 million has been devoted to the overall program.

Recipients are caught by surprise when their names are announced at emotional all-school assemblies in front of cheering students, proud colleagues, distinguished officials and the media.

There's a reason why Teacher magazine called it the “Oscars of Teaching”—new Milken Educators have even been asked for autographs by admiring students!

And while the celebrity treatment is well-deserved, the Awards aren't about the glitz and glamor. They're about bringing attention to these classroom heroes; serving at once as validation, motivation and inspiration to current and future quality educators.

The message: We recognize you. We value you. We thank you.

The following information is from the Milken Family Foundation

