

2020-2021

Teachers of the Year

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**Educational Services Professionals
of the Year**



Lauryn Peterson

Amsterdam Elementary ~ Teacher of the Year



Lauryn Peterson ~ Amsterdam Elementary ~ Teacher of the Year

From Dr. Mullady:

It is my honor to name Lauryn Peterson as Amsterdam School's Governor Educator of the Year. Since day one, Lauryn has demonstrated qualities and an impressive skill set that clearly identify her as an educator of distinction. As the teacher of the Learning Language Disabilities Mild class, she exhibits boundless energy, determination and creativity every day, working with students who present with a wide range of unique needs, strengths and challenges.

Lauryn teaches from the heart with a smile firmly in place. She has shown remarkable patience and determination to meet the needs of her students. She is a strong collaborator and has worked closely with her colleagues to develop and implement specialized programs with a unique twist. Thinking outside of the box, she makes learning meaningful, engaging and fun! Additionally, she supports our school endlessly with creative activities, her school spirit and gifts of time which enhance the quality of school life for all of our stakeholders. Lauryn Peterson is a highly regarded, respected and talented teacher who is the ultimate professional. She is the model for others to follow!

From Ms. Peterson:

I am a 1st/2nd grade Language and Learning Disabilities teacher at Amsterdam School. I am honored to be recognized on behalf of Hillsborough School District.

The exceptional students and families I have been privileged to work with over the years have made such an overwhelming impact on my passion for teaching and learning and I feel blessed to have the opportunity to make a difference, no matter the size.

I am truly humbled by this honor, and I look forward to continuing to learn and grow with my students, their families and my incredible colleagues in Hillsborough Township Public Schools.

Melissa Rice

Amsterdam Elementary ~ Educational Services Professional



Melissa Rice ~ Amsterdam Elementary ~ ESP

From Dr. Mullady:

It is my honor to name Melissa Rice as Amsterdam School's Educational Specialist of the Year. Melissa is not only an extraordinary instructional assistant, she is an extraordinary person. She has this unique quality to build a special rapport with each student and make them feel special. Her warm and bubbly personality is one-of-a-kind and this makes her approachable, to everyone. Students feel safe and comfortable in her care.

Melissa is an "I can help" kind of person. She has school spirit and is a proud member of Amsterdam School. She assists in creating all props and displays for the monthly Character Education assemblies and participates in school spirit days. Her giving nature does not end at the school house door. Melissa is involved in a number of district and community activities. She runs her children's Field Days, Community Life Group, and is very active in her church.

Melissa's greatest quality is that she has a heart of gold. She cares about everyone and is always rooting for others. She is genuine and has impacted our Amsterdam community in only positive ways! I can think of no one more worthy of this recognition.

From Ms. Rice:

After being a stay-at-home mom for 15 years and having four children in Hillsborough schools, I was inspired by the mission and the people of this district.

Having never worked in education, I decided to make a complete career change and follow this calling. I can truly say having the opportunity to serve the staff and students of Hillsborough Township Public Schools as an instructional assistant is an honor!

Tricia Townsend

Auten Road Intermediate School ~ Teacher of the Year



Tricia Townsend ~ Auten Road Intermediate ~ Teacher of the Year

From Mr. Carey:

Ms. Townsend has quickly earned a reputation as a quiet force in the building, and a teacher who conducts her work with such grace and skill. She is extremely knowledgeable in her approach toward meeting her students needs through scaffolding, modeling, and interpersonal connections, as well as by working collaboratively with colleagues to provide targeted instruction and assessments.

While being extremely supportive, Ms. Townsend is able to challenge her students to make sure they do their best and they reach their potential - even when they do not believe in themselves.

Auten Road Intermediate School is proud to recognize Ms. Townsend as its 2021 Teacher of the Year!

From Ms. Townsend:

I am humbled and honored to be selected as Auten Road Intermediate School's Teacher of the Year.

In a year like no other, I am in awe of my colleagues that have risen to the occasion. One year ago, no one could have predicted what obstacles we would face over the coming months. Yet, time and again, I am inspired by my coworkers who have consistently jump over each hurdle on our path.

This is my seventh year teacher; third year in Hillsborough. I feel so fortunate to be part of a community that shares my values regarding education and commitment to see all students succeed.

Linda Garoian

Auten Road Intermediate ~ Educational Services Professional



Linda Garoian ~ Auten Road Intermediate - ESP

From Mr. Carey:

Ms. Garoian has been a resident of Hillsborough for 29 years. She has worked as an Instructional Assistant for the last 22 Years serving Auten Road Intermediate School, Amsterdam Elementary School, and Hillsborough High School.

Auten Road Intermediate School is proud to honor Ms. Garoian as their Educational Services Professional of the Year.

Ms. Garoian's essential role as instructional assistant serves to remind each of us of the important role that all of our IA's perform each and every day. Ms. Garoian exemplifies the dedication and professionalism of all instructional assistants who endeavor to maintain the quality of our schools and to ensure our students' success.

Auten Road Intermediate School is proud to recognize Ms. Garoian as its 2021 ESP of the Year!

From Ms. Garoian:

In my 22 years in the district, I have been very fortunate to have had fantastic fellow instructional assistants and teachers to learn from and emulate.

During our COVID-19 crisis, I continue to be inspired by the effort of all of our staff - teachers, instructional assistants, nurses, lunch aides, administrative staff, custodians, transportation and buildings and grounds.

Their goal continues to be to bring a quality educational experience to our students and staff under the most adverse conditions.

I thank you all for your dedication and continue to strive for your level of excellence.

Joyce Bordonaro

Hillsborough Elementary ~ Teacher of the Year



Joyce Bordonaro ~ Hillsborough Elementary ~ Teacher of the Year

From Ms. Eckstein:

I am honored to name Mrs. Joyce Bordonaro as the Teacher of the Year for Hillsborough Elementary School. Earning this distinction is something that most teachers aspire to just once, but this phenomenal educator has been selected as Teacher of the Year before, which gives some insight into just how special she is. Some teachers are born educators with the ability to make magic in all that they do, and that is certainly the case with Mrs. Bordonaro. Her energy, dedication, and heart make her second to none.

A consummate professional and master teacher in normal times, she has managed to be even more spectacular in the uniquely challenging circumstances facing us in the pandemic. Joyce makes her students feel like a million dollars as she celebrates them as unique individuals just as much as she recognizes their academic growth. Making each student feel loved and valued, her students' faces light up in her presence, leaving no room for doubt that Mrs. Bordonaro has earned this very special accolade once again.

From Ms. Bordonaro:

I always knew I wanted to be a teacher. There is no doubt that this was what I was meant to do and I am so glad that I never strayed from that choice.

Being a teacher is what I love. Receiving this honor means so much to me, but I couldn't do what I do every day if it weren't for the other teachers I work with.

Teaching is truly a team effort, so I thank them for all they do to help me be a better teacher.

Taylor Lazicky

Hillsborough Elementary ~ Educational Services Professional



Taylor Lazicky ~ Hillsborough Elementary ~ ESP

From Ms. Eckstein:

I am honored to name Mr. Taylor Lazicky as the Hillsborough Elementary School Educational Services Professional of the Year.

Mr. Lazicky is one of the brightest spots of the day for the students with whom he works, and he approaches every moment with a student as an opportunity to make that child's day better. He is kind, sincere, approachable, warm and dedicated, and his students know that they have a trustworthy adult ready and eager to help when they are with him.

As an outstanding role model, Mr. Lazicky will do whatever it takes to motivate his students and make them excited about doing their best work and being the best people they can be. Mr. Lazicky is truly someone special at Hillsborough Elementary School!

From Mr. Lazicky:

Growing up in Hillsborough, I had the opportunity to attend Hillsborough Schools. From third to fifth grade I attended Hillsborough Elementary School. The memories created during my time there have always stuck with me.

Those fond memories influenced my decision to pursue a career in education, hoping to the same for today's students. I was blessed to be hired by Hillsborough Schools in 2016 and in 2018, I landed back at Hillsborough Elementary School.

I am humbled and grateful to receive this year's Educational Services Professional award for my school and believe this award is a reflection of my colleagues, with whom I teach and learn from every

Lynn Mound

Hillsborough High School ~ Teacher of the Year



Lynn Mound ~ Hillsborough High School ~ Teacher of the Year

From Ms. Bingert:

Mrs. Mound is the crux of the art department at Hillsborough High School. She is a role model and mentor for new teachers, a trusted resource and colleague for veteran teachers, and a highly respected and beloved teacher for her students.

Mrs. Mound helps students find their inner artist by teaching them a skill set that builds a technical foundation from which they can unleash their creativity. Her students' art work is technical, expressive, innovative, creative, and reflective of her students' inner vision. Whether working with a novice or an AP level art student, Mrs. Mound teaches with her heart, always displays the highest degree of professionalism, and shares the breadth and depth of her knowledge, making her art classes the highlight of her students' day.

I am thrilled and so proud to call Mrs. Lynn Mound the Hillsborough High School Teacher of the Year!

From Ms. Mound:

I decided to pursue my career as an art teacher because I wanted to share my passion for the arts with young artists.

I have seen some of the most authentic and beautiful work from my students over the 29 years that I have been teaching art. I have felt incredibly blessed to explore, discuss and practice what I love with my students every day.

It is an honor to be nominated and I am humbled to have been selected as teacher of the year.

Jennifer Amponin

Hillsborough High School ~ Educational Services Professional



Jennifer Amponin ~ Hillsborough High School ~ ESP

From Ms. Bingert:

Mrs. Amponin began this year as the last nurse standing at Hillsborough High School in a health office typically staffed by three nurses when one coworker resigned and another needed to be transferred to cover two vacancies in our elementary schools. The school nurse is always a critical member of the school staff, but never more than during this unprecedented pandemic. She is the voice at the other end of the phone for parents, students, and staff facing infection or exposure to COVID-19, calmly explaining the district protocol, answering health questions, and reassuring everyone that she would be there to help them through this frightening time. As the high school point person for contact tracing, she has exhaustively followed the bread crumbs to ensure that anyone possibly placed at risk is informed and able to protect themselves and those they love with proactive measures. Aside from the pandemic, she is ready, willing, and able to provide assistance no matter the situation. I am truly honored to call Mrs. Jennifer Amponin the Educational Services Professional of the Year for Hillsborough High School!

From Ms. Amponin:

I am immensely grateful and honored for this recognition. While this year has offered different challenges in school nursing, the support of the staff, administration and parents has been very much appreciated.

I truly love what I do and working at the high school has been a wonderful experience. I will always try to keep the students, staff and community safe and healthy.

Thank you again for this recognition!



Kimberly Lopez

Hillsborough Middle School ~ Teacher of the Year



Kimberly Lopez ~ Hillsborough Middle School ~ Teacher of the Year

From Dr. Trybulski:

For over 30 years, Ms. Kimberly Lopez has been an unstoppable powerhouse of positive support for students with disabilities. Her energy in the classroom and commitment to doing whatever it takes to meet student needs is boundless. Ms. Lopez was among the first group of teachers to pilot new technology in the classroom and lead the way in adapting those resources to advance learning in special education.

She has been a turnkey trainer and mentor teacher to countless new faculty and staff. In recent years, she started a personal audiobook Youtube channel recording youth literature and other educational materials that benefit not only her students, but students across the school and for teachers beyond Hillsborough.

Ms. Lopez has been an active participant in special school-wide activities and events and a valued member of the Principal's Advisory Committee for years. As a gifted teacher, instructional leader and advocate for all children, HMS is proud to recognize Kim Lopez as our Teacher of the Year for 2021.

From Ms. Lopez:

I am tremendously honored to have been chosen as Hillsborough Middle School's Teacher of the Year. I have spent nineteen of my thirty-one years teaching in Hillsborough and have always been in awe of the dedication, professionalism and tremendous talent of those I am fortunate enough to work with.

Even though this is one of the most challenging of my thirty-one years teaching, I strive to be approachable, encouraging and always willing to help those in need.

I love getting to know my students and building positive relationships with them as we work together in preparation for high school and beyond.

Tina Androulakis

Hillsborough Middle School ~ Educational Services Professional



Tina Androulakis ~ Hillsborough Middle School ~ ESP

From Dr. Trybulski:

Ms. Androulakis has been an invaluable support for students in our remedial literacy program that serves both 7th and 8th grade students who are most in need of a patient, guiding and skilled hand helping them overcome learning challenges with reading and writing. Though her formal role is to assist, one would be hard pressed to distinguish her from that of a co-teacher in lesson planning, providing small-group instruction, and as an individual counselor and role model for her students.

Without question, the success of the program and the youngsters in her care, many of whom are learning English for the first time, is attributable to her deep dedication and expertise.

Beyond the classroom, Ms. Androulakis is also a volunteer member of our AED response team and active participant in charity events at school and in the community. HMS is proud to recognize Ms. Androulakis as our ESP of the Year for 2021.

From Ms. Androulakis:

It is an honor to receive this recognition for ESP of the Year. I have worked in the HMS 7th and 8th grade READ 180 programs for the past nine years. The READ 180 is an intensive reading and writing intervention program designed to meet the needs of students whose reading achievement is below the proficient level. The workshop model construction includes whole group mini lessons, independent work, a software component, and small group instruction. I have seen first hand how this program has helped struggling students become better readers and writers.

The literacy specialists I have had the honor to work with have taught me a great deal. They treat me more like a co-teacher than an instructional assistant. This is important to me because I do have an elementary teaching certificate and I appreciate the opportunity to utilize my teaching skills while supporting the READ 180 students and teachers. Thank you for this wonderful recognition.

Caitlyn Sonier

Sunnymead Elementary ~ Teacher of the Year



Caitlyn Sonier ~ Sunnymead Elementary ~ Teacher of the Year

From Dr. Jenkins:

It is a pleasure and an honor to name Ms. Sonier as Sunnymead School's Governor's Educator of the Year Award. Mrs. Sonier is innovative, creative and passionate! She exudes positive energy and enthusiasm every day with her students and colleagues. She is always willing to go above and beyond to engage her students and to support her colleagues.

During these unprecedented times, Mrs. Sonier has served her students and their families with love, compassion and grace. We are very grateful to have Mrs. Sonier as a part of our Sunnymead family and we are proud to have her as our Teacher of the Year.

Congratulations on an honor well deserved!

From Mrs. Caitlyn Sonier:

It is an honor to be recognized as Teacher of the Year for Sunnymead School. I work alongside some of the most amazing, talented and professional colleagues.

I was fortunate to have wonderful teachers growing up. My second grade teachers were my biggest influences in becoming an educator. While this year has presented many challenges while teaching during a pandemic, I am surrounded by a wonderful support system at work and home.

I would not be where I am without the support and love of my friends, family, husband and daughter, Adeline.

Elizabeth Aleo

Sunnymead Elementary ~ Educational Services Professional



Elizabeth Aleo ~ Sunnymeade Elementary ~ ESP

From Dr. Jenkins:

It is a pleasure and an honor to name Elizabeth Aleo as our Educational Services Professional of the year.

Liz is dedicated to her job, the staff and students at Sunnymeade Elementary School. She is creative, hard working and it is always a pleasure to be in her company. Liz is always willing to go above and beyond.

She not only supports the students in her class, she will jump in and provide support wherever needed. Her smile and positive attitude is contagious.

Congratulations, Liz on an honor well deserved!

From Ms. Aleo:

It is a great honor to receive the ESP of the Year award for Sunnymeade Elementary School. For the past year and a half that I've worked here, I've loved every second of it. Coming to work and seeing all of my friends is always the best part of my day. I am so happy to work in such a helpful and friendly environment with great people. Being an instructional in Hillsborough for the past 11 years has taken me a long way. I have worked at Triangle Elementary, Woods Road Elementary and Auten Road Intermediate. Sunnymeade has been my best experience. I am always looking for innovative activities to improve the educational experience for both teachers and students.

This year I developed a virtual first grade sight word database, organized and directed the Sunnymeade Virtual Picture Day and I am currently working on a sensory path mural for the school. I am genuinely looking forward to many more years at Sunnymeade School!

Kathleen DiGirolamo

Triangle Elementary ~ Teacher of the Year



Kathleen DiGirolamo ~ Triangle Elementary ~ Teacher of the Year

From Mr. Aliperti:

It is with great pleasure that I name Mrs. Kathy DiGirolamo as Triangle School's 2020-2021 Governor's Educator of the Year! Kathy's hard work and dedication to the students, staff, and families of Triangle School are immeasurable.

Over the past 17 years of service to all the students she has taught, Kathy remains a favorite among them all, not only for her teaching and love of education, but also for her ability to connect with her students and their families in a way that demonstrates caring, compassion, and empathy for the unique individuals they are. Kathy is a master teacher and serves as a role model to her colleagues here at Triangle School. Her willingness to "think outside the box" and learn new ways of making learning fun and engaging are outstanding and she is often commended by her colleagues as she openly shares with others what she has discovered. On behalf of the Triangle School community, I congratulate Mrs. Kathy DiGirolamo on receiving the recognition of being one of the very best in education!

From Mrs. DiGirolamo:

Even though I am the child of respected educators, my principal father and my learning consultant mother, teaching was not my initial choice of career. But after seeing the impact that teachers made on my own children, I discovered what became my true calling and returned to school.

Across 17 years of teaching, some days are hard, but most days are full of joy, and every day is a new adventure with my class. I love working with my second graders. Watching my students learn gives me the greatest satisfaction and honor in knowing that I helped them to grow, academically, socially, and emotionally. I am thankful to my family, my colleagues and my principals for their support over the years. I am humbled and grateful to be recognized as Triangle School's Teacher of the Year.

Noreen Koval

Triangle Elementary ~ Educational Services Professional



Noreen Koval ~ Triangle Elementary ~ ESP

From Mr. Aliperti:

I am honored to name Mrs. Noreen Koval as Triangle School's 2020-2021 Educational Services Profession of the Year! Noreen is a truly gifted speech and language therapist. The ability she possesses to recognize the strengths in her students is a fascinating thing to watch. The children she works with on a daily basis are always greeted with a big smile and a friendly demeanor from Noreen and the therapy sessions are filled with the successes her students make because she makes them comfortable to take risks. And when students don't always succeed, Noreen is constantly reassuring them to try their best and not to give up. This motivation sparks an enthusiasm in her students and helps them do amazing things! Noreen is also a fantastic support to the families of her students. She is always listening to their needs and offers suggestions and ways to support them. Those positive gestures are what make her such a valuable resource to the students and families she works with. Congratulations to Noreen on this fantastic achievement!

From Ms. Koval:

I have been a speech/language pathologist for many years. I feel in love working with children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder during my junior year in college.

I am honored by this recognition. There is not one person in the education field that does not deserve this recognition. We have all been challenged this past year to look at how we can best educate children and support families during a pandemic.

Amy Regan

Woodfern Elementary ~ Teacher of the Year



Amy Regan ~ Woodfern Elementary ~ Teacher of the Year

From Dr. Kerrigan:

Mrs. Regan is the embodiment of the teacher we all want our children to have and the teacher we all strive to be. The level of dedication she shows her students is evident in all that she does.

Mrs. Regan is a teacher who consistently challenges her students to learn and grow beyond what they think is possible, and she does this while simultaneously showing the highest level of love and care for each child in her class. She constantly pushes herself to try new things and expand her skills, knowing that the ultimate beneficiaries are her students.

I am very proud to say that Mrs. Amy Regan is Woodfern's Teacher of the Year!

From Ms. Regan:

I have been a teacher in Hillsborough for almost 33 years. My life is fuller because of all of the many amazing teachers, students and families I have worked with through the years here.

This year I wrote a children's book about COVID titled *Caring Kids - Coping Rhymes for COVID Times*. I wanted to make a difference to others, spread some kindness, positivity and a way to find the silver lining during the pandemic. I hope to do the same in the classroom every day, spread kindness, positivity and instill the love of learning.

I am honored to receive this award especially when there are so many deserving teachers.

Shirley Mastowski

Woodfern Elementary ~ Educational Services Professional



Shirley Mastowski ~ Woodfern Elementary ~ ESP

From Dr. Kerrigan:

Mrs. Mastowski can truly do it all. The breadth and depth of her knowledge and skill when it comes to technology, computers, and instruction, is unmatched.

She works incredibly well with students and staff, she has tireless energy to provide help and support, and she exhibits a supremely high level of patience and understanding in all that she does. She has an innate ability to anticipate potential glitches and problems and she often fixes these before they occur.

Mrs. Mastowski is the epitome of a highly skilled and motivated professional. It is my honor to call her Woodfern's Educational Services Professional of the Year!

From Ms. Mastowski:

I have been teaching for 25 years. I started my teaching career in 1996, in the Linden school system teaching a multi-age regular education class comprised of fourth and fifth grade students.

I came to Hillsborough in 2000 as a computer teacher for Woodfern Elementary School. Over the years, my role has changed to include technology support and integration in classroom settings. During the past year or so, with the heavy reliance on technology for teaching, it feels especially rewarding to be acknowledged as the ESP for Woodfern Elementary School.

I truly love my job and being able to help students and teachers alike which is why I became a teacher.

Peter McLaughlin

Woods Road Elementary ~ Teacher of the Year



Peter McLaughlin ~ Woods Road Elementary ~ Teacher of the Year

From Mrs. Fisher:

It is a great honor to award the 2020-2021 Woods Road Elementary School's Governor Educator of the Year Award to Peter McLaughlin. Peter is a dynamic educator who has the ability to connect with his students and truly understand both their academic and social needs to create an electric, fun and engaging learning environment for all. Peter individualizes his instruction and always makes himself available to both his students and their families and is well respected among his Woods Road colleagues.

Mr. M, as he is known through the halls of Woods Road, is very humble and often credits his success to his colleagues rather than to himself. Mr. McLaughlin's positive impact on his students and their families is clearly evident by the lasting impact he has had on his students long after they leave his classroom. On behalf of everyone in the Woods Road School and community, congratulations to Mr. McLaughlin on being awarded Educator of the Year.

From Mr. McLaughlin:

I have been teaching for thirteen years, the past six here in Hillsborough. I began my career as a preschool teacher, taught first grade for many years and now teach third grade.

I was inspired by my second grade teacher who provided an energizing, engaging and positive classroom environment while also maintaining firm and consistent standards for all students. I strive to create a challenging, yet fun, and engaging community for my class.

I am incredibly honored to receive this distinction and cannot express how truly fortunate I am to work with such a dedicated group of colleagues at Woods Road School. In particular I would like to recognize the third grade team. They are truly an exceptional group of teachers that I am able to rely on so heavily for support.

Corinne Magliaro

Woods Road Elementary ~ Educational Services Professional



Corinne Magliaro ~ Woods Road Elementary ~ ESP

From Mrs. Fisher:

Congratulations to Corinne Maliaro for being named Woods Road's Educational Services Professional of the Year for 2020-2021!

Corinne is an amazing asset to the Woods Road preschool community as she is a champion for her students by continually going above and beyond the parameters of her role as an instructional assistant. Corinne helps to develop new behavior plans, assists with students daily therapy schedules and can anticipate the needs of her students thus ensuring a safe and engaging learning experience for all. Corinne collaborates with therapists, behavior specialists, and child study team members in order to best meet the needs of her students.

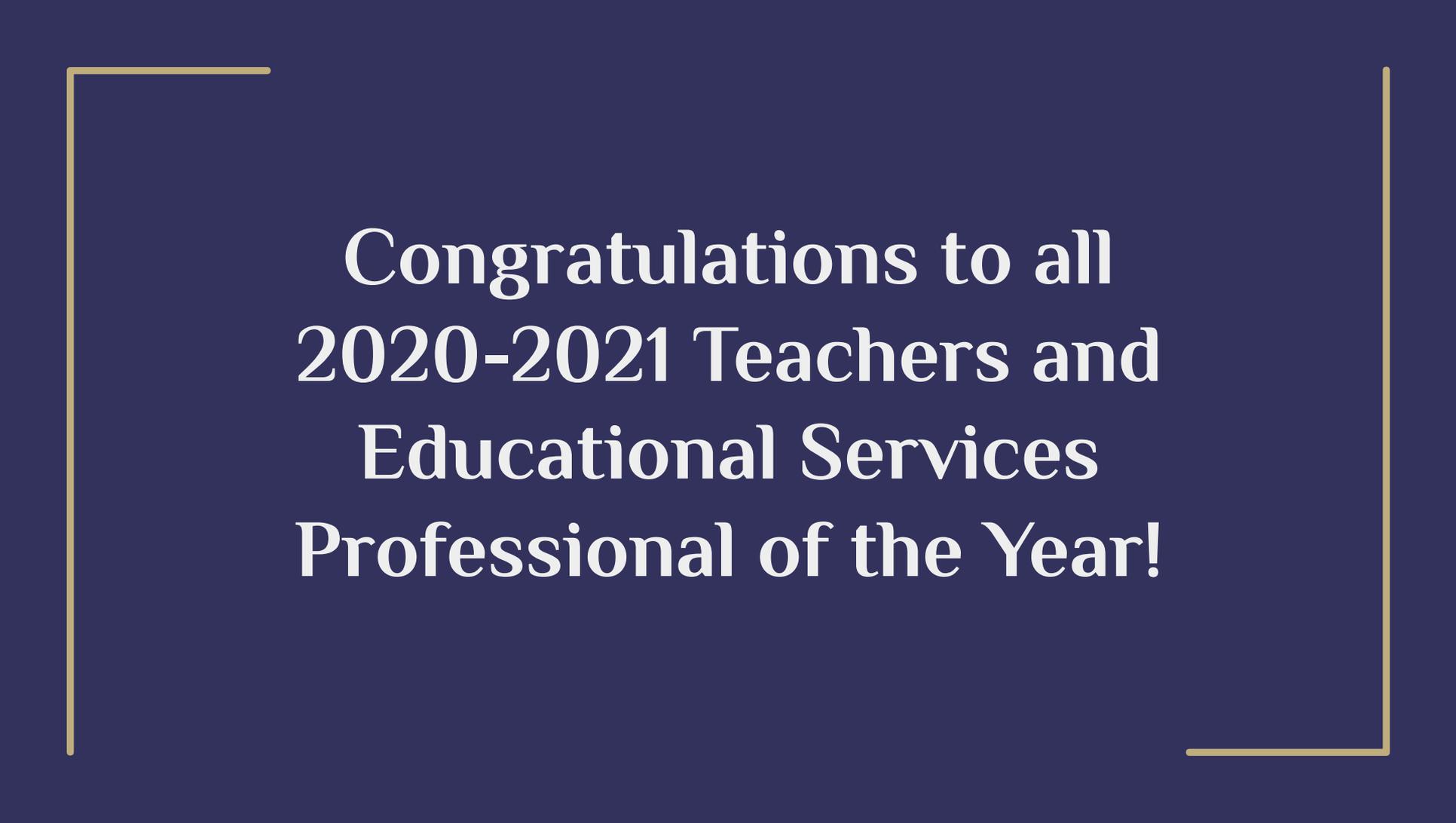
Corinne is truly deserving of Woods Road Educational Services Professional of the Year!

From Ms. Magliaro:

I graduated from the University of Delaware with a bachelor's degree in education. I taught elementary school for several years before deciding to stay home to raise my four children in Hillsborough with my husband Jim.

When my youngest child entered kindergarten, I began substituting and quickly landed as an instructional assistant in the preschool autism program where I spent ten years.

I am an applied behavioral analysis champion and strive to see our most challenging learners succeed as well as a potty training superhero! I am a team player who is always willing to help, support and nurture both coworkers and students.



**Congratulations to all
2020-2021 Teachers and
Educational Services
Professional of the Year!**