



FOX CITIES CHAMBER
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Shining Star Awards

Thursday, March 21, 2024
Butte des Morts Country Club

Quality Education Leads to a Skilled Workforce and a Stronger Community



175 YEARS



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Excellence in Education Awards

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BECKY BARTOSZEK
FOX CITIES CHAMBER

Good evening,

I hope you are ready to be inspired, as tonight we will recognize some of the brightest stars in the Fox Cities region at our 5th annual Excellence in Education Shining Star Awards! I am thrilled you are joining us to celebrate those who have gone above and beyond in nurturing the hearts and minds of the next generation of leaders. This year, the Fox Cities Chamber is celebrating our 150th anniversary, and it was our goal to receive 150 Shining Star Award nominations. I am happy to say we met our goal, and tonight you will meet our ten award recipients...the best of the best educators in the Fox Cities.

Our educators are rising to new challenges every day, inside and outside the classroom, and constantly seeking innovative ways to meet the needs of students, families, the community and employers. We are grateful for their dedication and commitment to students, learning, and the success of the Fox Cities region.

The Chamber is proud to partner with our local educators. Business involvement with education is not new, but it is increasing in its scope to meet the present and future demands of talent shortages and skills gaps. The business/education partnerships will be the backbone of continued success for our region. Outstanding Pre-K through 16 instruction and support services help prepare our children to be college and career ready and impact our community's future economic success. High-quality post-secondary education enables the Fox Cities to produce a skilled workforce that can effectively respond to globalization and technology changes for a thriving economy.

Together we will achieve great things!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Bartoszek". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Becky Bartoszek
President and CEO
Fox Cities Chamber

The Excellence in Education Shining Star Awards program is the 4K-16 event recognizing the outstanding achievements of educators in the Fox Cities region. A skilled workforce of tomorrow relies on high quality education today, and this event will acknowledge and celebrate the unparalleled contributions of educators working and shining in Fox Cities schools, colleges, universities and other educational settings.

The Fox Cities Chamber is committed to supporting and facilitating education and business partnerships that promote student success, workforce and economic development, and a high quality of life for all residents learning, growing, working and living in the Fox Cities region. We recognize that educators are the preparers of the next generation of leaders and doers, and business/education partnerships are the model for success!

THANK YOU TO LISA MALAK AND MILLAINE WELLS OF LOCAL FIVE LIVE FOR EMCEEING THIS EVENING



LISA MALAK



MILLAINE WELLS



PROGRAM

5:00 PM
Registration/
Happy Hour/
Music by Joey
O'Connor



6:00 PM
Dinner Served



6:30 PM
Award Ceremony
Begins



7:45 PM
Announce Educator of
the Year



8:00 PM
Photos and
Celebration





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Karen Hoffman

Business & Marketing,
Kimberly High School



“In addition to her leadership in her daily teaching career, Ms. Hoffman and her team thought outside the education box and advocated for the INCubator program to make its home at Kimberly High School.

With the support of the KHS school staff and local professionals, spearheading this initiative has become a huge success and a practice other schools must learn to follow!”



Lisa Jelenic

8th Grade,
Seymour Middle School



“Ms. Jelenic’s impact as a teacher has been nothing short of transformative, leaving a lasting impression on both students and families alike.

Her dedication to education goes beyond the confines of the classroom, as evidenced by the numerous families who specifically request her as their child’s teacher. This speaks volumes about the trust and admiration she has garnered within our school community.”

Chris Jones

Science,
Neenah Middle School



“At the core of Mr. Jones’ work is his deep care, concern, and commitment for our students who experience school differently than others.

This often means that he seeks out our students who struggle to find success in school, instills an unfailing belief in each of them, and celebrates their successes. He inspires students to achieve more for themselves than they previously envisioned possible.”

Sara Lawman

2nd Grade,
Chilton Area Catholic School



“Ms. Lawman is an amazing teacher in so many ways. She communicates with the parents weekly and is always quick to reply to emails.

She makes each student feel important and loved. She has amazing and fun projects planned throughout the year. My favorite so far is Christmas around the world. She uses different voices to tell stories. She makes me want to go back to school to take 2nd grade again. She is my favorite teacher and I’m a parent!”



Elyse Lucas

Art,
Appleton North High School



"Ms. Lucas brings her art curriculum and her art students out into the community. She has initiated many events with Appleton city art projects, Boys and Girls Club and the Fox Valley Symphony; to name a few.

Her focus has always been to use art education to enhance her community and to grow and support her students. She is a role model for community engagement and a mentor to her students and faculty."



Paul Maronek

4th Grade,
Freedom Elementary School



"There have been countless times my daughter has come home talking about how much she loves school this year.

Mr. Maronek has been a great mentor to her as she's gone through some peer issues this year. He sat down with my daughter and talked to her about how she's his student first and he's there for her with whatever comes up. He reassured her that she can always count on him."

Michelle Mees

5th Grade Math,
River View Middle School



"There are teachers that tiptoe around students who struggle and then there are teachers like Ms. Mees who advocate for those kids and do everything they can do to help them be successful."

5th grade is a hard year for students as they are adjusting from elementary school to middle school with multiple teachers and new surroundings. She is an amazing teacher - a true advocate for her students."

Leila Ramagopal Pertl

Music,
Edison Elementary School;
Lawrence University



"Ms. Pertl approaches her students with the belief that they have unlimited potential, and she provides the instruction and encouragement for her students to create, grapple with, and perform music at a level far beyond what is normally seen at the elementary grade level."

Leila has turned her elementary music classrooms into a Lab School for Lawrence music education students, enriching the lives of the young students and pre-professional music education students."



Dan Van Boxtel

Technology Education,
Kaukauna High School



“Mr. Van Boxtel goes above and beyond to help his students succeed in his class.”

He’s an all-around wonderful person. Because of him, my daughter has chosen mechanics as her career choice.”



Dan Van Eperen

English/Social Studies,
Little Chute Career
Pathways Academy



“Mr. Van Eperen influences not only his students, but also his community. He is involved with the Fox Cities PAC’s Center Stage High School Musical Theater Program, in which Little Chute High School participates, and he directs their musicals. Through this, he opens the doors for his students to attend workshops about various aspects of theater. Dan’s fostering of hard work, determination and his importance of comradery in his students

makes not only a positive learning environment for his students but teaches them how to be great members of society.”

2024 Shining Star Nominees

Lynzee Adkins

Andrea Anderson

DeAnna Anderson

Ashley Andrejeski

Jodi Barrington

Carrie Bartel

Maria Biebel

Judy Blaney

Stephanie Breitenbach

Carly Burris

Jessica Caldie

Jennifer Cameron

Barbara Conger

Jenny Daul

Bobbi Debruin

Lisa Dorschner

Katie Durrant

James Eastman

Nicole Eidahl

Janel Englebert

Lisa Fesing

Lynn Fischer

Margo Fox

Luke Gajewski

Kristie George

Amy Gilmet

Mark Gorshe

Jennie Gries

Kimberly Groenjes

Adam Hendries

Blake Hensley

Lisa Hietpas

Jill Hinkens

Steve Hinz

Karen Hoffman

Erin Hoffman

Kayla Houle

Nicole Jedwabny

Lisa Jelenic

Jill Jolly

Christopher Jones

Casey Karpin

Constance Kassor

Tony Kazik

Teena Keesler

Korri Kersten

Lisa Kmichik

Stacy Knapp

Jenny Kocourek

Kimberly Kortens

Sheri Krueger

Lori Kruepke

Hannah Kuplack

Penny Kurkiewicz

Cathy LaFrombois

Kelly Lamers

Karla Laudén

Sara Lawman

William Lee

Sara Leintz

Michelle Lepak

Joe Lewis

Laura Lindberg

Tori Lodl

Elyse Lucas

Karen Luckow

Jodi March

Paul Maronek

Brian McKinnon

Angela McMahan

Tim McManus

Michelle Mees

John D. Morgen

Amber Muellenbach

Jill Mussett

Alisia Myers

2024 Shining Star Nominees

Jenny Neumann
Sarah Northam
Chad Oeftger
Tara Olk
Katie Opperman
Amber Ortega
Roxanne Parker
Brian Pinchart
Lisa Piper
Stacy Popp
Leila Ramagopal Pertl
Aaron Ramponi
Mary Renning
Todd Riesterer
Elizabeth Rodriguez
Tim Roehrig
Michelle Schmitz
Anne Sharelis
Christopher Sievert
Carrie Stammer
Amanda Susek

Alena Tapelt
Kelly Thews
Corbin Thompson
Mary Thompson
Kim Tiegs
Taylor Tuma
Dan Van Boxtel
Dan Van Eperen
Julia Van Veldhuisen
Rebecca VandeLoo
Eric Vander Loop
Nikki VanderHeiden
Kerri VanderLoop
Ashley Volkmann
Amanda Voss
Laurie Wagner
Crystal Wall
Cathy Wilda
Amanda Williams
Jennifer Wilson
Amy Xiong

*Congratulations
to all
nominees!*



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150  YEARS

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