

Golden Apple Foundation

TEACHER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

2009-2010 APPLICATION

PURPOSE:

The Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program honors outstanding teachers, who upon induction into the Golden Apple Teacher Academy, will:

- Promote an awareness of educational excellence in their school district and encourage a partnership between the schools and the community,
- Recognize and support best practices in teaching, and
- Promote learning as a lifelong process.

ELIGIBILITY-(Must Meet All):

- Nominated, certified **Pre-K through 5th grade** teacher with **five years** of full-time teaching
- Currently teaching full-time in a public school or ISBE recognized non-public school in **Winnebago or Boone County**
- Employed in **good standing** within current school district

APPLICATION PROCESS:

- Complete application packet and submit to the Golden Apple Foundation office by **5:00 PM on Tuesday, December 1, 2009.**
- Type or print clearly. If using a computer or word processor, you may use your own paper, but only use the amount of space and size of paper provided on the application.
- Complete four required components of the **Application Packet:**
 - A. Applicant Information**-Basic background information
 - B. Self-Reflective Essay**-Submit no more than five double spaced, typed pages. Do not state your school's name in the essay. **Provide in-depth insight, including specific illustrative examples, in the following areas:**
 - 1) Commitment you have made as an educator and how it has impacted your students.
 - 2) Challenges you provide to all students to reach high standards and expectations.
 - 3) Ways you involve families in the education process.
 - 4) How you utilize your experience and skills to mentor new teachers and collaborate with other educators.

This essay is an opportunity for you to reflect on your career as an educator. Only a teacher can help others to understand the deep commitment to educating students. The essay allows our selection committee to understand the importance of the work you do as a teacher and helps Golden Apple Foundation to promote to the community the true significance of the profession of education.
 - C. Letters of Recommendation**-Provide only three letters of recommendation, with at least one from an educator who is familiar with your classroom teaching. Each person sending a recommendation letter must include his/her name, address and relationship to the applicant on non-letterhead stationery.
 - D. Authorization**-Attest to authorization and eligibility criteria with signature.

SEND COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKET TO:

Golden Apple Foundation
Rockford College-Burpee Center
5050 E. State St. Rockford, IL 61108-2393
Or Fax to: 394-5014

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE:

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Preferred E-mail: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School Phone: _____ School Fax: _____

Principal's Name: _____

AUTHORIZATION:

The thoughts expressed in this application are my own, and I give my permission to use the enclosed information for the compilation of data by Golden Apple Foundation. I hereby confirm that I meet all the eligibility criteria as listed in this application.

SIGNATURE

DATE

For questions or more information please feel free to contact the Golden Apple Foundation office at 815/226-4180.

“Thanks and Good Luck!!”

Current Grade Level/Subjects: _____ **Years at Present School:** _____

Prior Grade Levels/Subjects Taught

Years

Total Years Teaching Experience: _____

DEGREE	MAJOR	COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	DATE DEGREE AWARDED
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Professional Recognition and Honors: _____

Professional Development within the Past Five Years:

School Related Activities/Responsibilities: _____

Community Involvement: _____

AWARDS PROCESS:

- Complete application packet, including essay, schedule and 3 letters of recommendation.
- Submit to the Golden Apple Foundation office by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, December 1, 2009.
- **Selection committee reviews and evaluates applications (with applicant identifying information omitted) based on only the following:**
 - 1) Applicant Information-page 3
 - 2) In-depth insight provided into the four required areas of the essay utilizing **specific illustrative examples.**
 - 3) Well-organized, well-written, grammatically correct essays.
 - 4) 3 Supporting letters of recommendation.
- 20 semi-finalists selected for classroom observations by December 16, 2009.
- Community volunteers observe and evaluate 20 semi-finalist teachers in their classrooms during January 19-February 19, 2010.
- Interviews conducted of 20 semi-finalists on Saturday, February 20, 2010.
- Golden Apples presented to five Teachers in surprise classroom visits on March 5, 2010.
- Golden Apple Recipients honored at the Fourteenth Annual Golden Apple Excellence in Education Banquet at Radisson Hotel and Conference Center on April 30, 2010.

AWARDS FOR 5 SELECTED GOLDEN APPLE RECIPIENTS:

- Inscribed Golden Apple
- Membership in the Golden Apple Teacher Academy
- Tickets to the Golden Apple Banquet
- Recognition at the Golden Apple Awards Banquet
- Cash award
- Laptop Computer
- Professional development stipend
- Rockford College scholarship
- Desktop computer for the classroom
- Highlighted in 13 WREX special program on excellent teachers

APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- ___ **Completed Applicant Information Form**
- ___ **Self-Reflective Essay**
- ___ **Three letters of recommendation**
- ___ **Signed Authorization**
- ___ **Teacher Applicant Schedule**

