

MARCH AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

Each month, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors recognizes an outstanding school, student, staff member, parent, or community member for a display of excellence, achievement, and innovation that may serve as an example to our school district and the entire Milwaukee community.

This month, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors is pleased to present the "Excellence in Education Award" to:

PATRICIA A. YAHLE
RETIRED ADMINISTRATOR

Patricia A. Yahle, former Director of the Department of Special Services, retired in June 2011, after 39 years of service to Milwaukee Public Schools. Patricia was a school-based speech language pathologist and program support pathologist for 13 years. She served as a supervisor in the speech language program for eight years and a special education administrator for seven years. Patricia worked in the Office of Board Governance for two years as a program officer for charter schools and provided Board Member support. She completed the last nine years of her career as the Director of Special Services.

Patricia's strong commitment to public education and MPS has its roots in her own years as an MPS student. She attended 95th Street School, Wilbur Wright Junior High and Washington High School. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Marquette University. Her parents instilled in her a deep commitment to MPS and life-long learning. Her father spent his career as a teacher and principal in MPS. The choice of education as a career was known to Pat from childhood because of her love of learning, imagination and desire to be part of a people-focused field.

Patricia provided support for special education as part of the Statewide Stakeholder's Committee on Special Education and as part of the Committee to Revise the Wisconsin Special Education Law. She served on the State Superintendent's Council on Special Education for eleven years, serving as Chairperson for five terms. Patricia received the Thelma Stack Outstanding Contributor Award from the Council for Exceptional Children in (CEC) 2007 and a Lifetime Service Award from the CEC in 2011.

The following accomplishments are only a few of the results realized by the Department of Special Services as a result of that team commitment during her tenure as director:

- The development and ongoing implementation of a **Parent Dispute Resolution System (PDRS)**.
- The development and full implementation of an on-line data base and **IEP (Individualized Education Program)**.
- Ongoing development and support for least restrictive environment placements.
- Ongoing growth of the **School-to-Work** Program throughout the community with more training options and post school employment.
- Ongoing work of the **Violence Prevention Program**.
- Ongoing support for the response-to-intervention strategies.
- Growing support and implementation of **restorative justice practices** in schools.
- Implementation district-wide of the **AED Defibrillator Program**.

The Milwaukee Board of School Directors recognize and honor **Patricia Yahle** for her dedication, outstanding leadership, and commitment to excellence on behalf of the students of the Milwaukee Public Schools.

OTHER AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

Staff

Two MPS educators are among Wisconsin educators who earned certification this year through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. There are now 64 National Board-Certified Teachers in Milwaukee Public Schools. National Board Certification is the highest credential teachers can attain in the United States.

New National Board Certified Teachers in MPS are:

- **Angeles Sitzes**
- **Marilyn A. Harmon**

National board certification is a voluntary program designed to develop, recognize, and retain accomplished teachers. Certification is achieved through a rigorous 10-part performance assessment that includes video portfolios, analysis of classroom practice, and evaluation of content knowledge. The assessments typically take from one to three years to complete.

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