

Michigan Youth Arts Festival
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SEVENTEEN EDUCATORS HONORED FOR THEIR WORK IN THE ARTS

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (May 2, 2008) – Seventeen educators will receive the Michigan Youth Arts Festival's Outstanding Educator of the Year Award for their commitment to arts education. The Michigan Youth Arts Festival Board will present this year's awards at the Festival's Annual Awards Dinner at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on Friday evening, May 9 in conjunction with the Michigan Youth Arts Festival held May 8-10.

The Michigan Youth Arts Festival Outstanding Educator of the Year Award was established to recognize the exemplary achievements of educators in the areas of creative writing, dance, film/video, music, theatre and visual arts.

Each year, the MYAF's Board of Directors selects various educators associated with their organizations for these awards. The MYAF Outstanding Educator awards recognize meritorious work by educators, who work with students to develop their artistic abilities, advocate for the inclusion of the arts in the curriculum and support the development and sustainability of quality arts education programs in schools.

MEEMIC Insurance sponsors the Outstanding Educator of the Year Awards program.

For more information about the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, which takes place on the campus of Western Michigan May 8-10, visit www.myaf.org or call the Festival's Executive Director, Kim Dabbs at 248-649-8888.

The seventeen recipients of the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award are:

HEIDI IRVINE-MATTARELLAMICKE -- Holt Senior High, Holt -- Educator of the Year, Michigan Art Education Association

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS, WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY, Kalamazoo -- Arts Education Organization of the Year, ArtServe Michigan

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Educator of the Year

E. RAY SCOTT -- Dearborn -- Arts Advocate of the Year, ArtServe Michigan

JOHN RUTHERFORD -- Groves High School, Birmingham -- Arts Educator of the Year, ArtServe Michigan

TROY SCHOOL BOARD -- Troy School District -- School Board of the Year, ArtServe Michigan

KEVIN MILLER -- Eastern Michigan University, Department of Music, Ypsilanti -- Teacher of the Year, American String Teacher Association, Michigan

KEVIN WALSH -- West Bloomfield High School, West Bloomfield -- Film/Video Teacher of the Year, Digital Arts, Film & Television

TERRY BLACKHAWK -- InsideOut Literary Arts Project, Detroit -- Educator of the Year, Michigan Council Teachers of English

GINA ELLIS -- Renaissance High School, Detroit -- Educator of the Year, Michigan Dance Council

JOHN LYCHNER -- Western Michigan University, School of Music, Kalamazoo -- Educator of the Year, Michigan Music Educators Association

EDMOND GUAY -- Avondale High School, Auburn Hills -- Theatre Teacher of the Year, Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association

PHIL WALKER -- Pioneer High School, Ann Arbor -- Theatre Teacher of the Year, Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association

BARBARA COLLINS -- Port Huron -- Distinguished Service Award, Michigan Music Teachers Association

BRUCE SNYDER -- Andover High School, Bloomfield Hills -- Teacher of the Year, Michigan School Vocal Music Association

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Educator of the Year

JEFFREY BENNETT -- Harbor Springs Public Schools, Harbor Springs -- Band Teacher of the Year, Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association

JANIS PETERSON -- Marquette Area Public Schools, Marquette -- Orchestra Teacher the Year, Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association

LISA BARNETT -- Clawson Public Schools, Clawson -- Educator of the Year, VSA arts of Michigan

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About the Michigan Youth Arts Festival

Unique to the state of Michigan, the festival began in 1963 as simple talent screening of young musicians. Today, it is a comprehensive arts celebration, culminating a nine-month search for the finest artistic talent in

Michigan high schools.