



Nonpublic Reading Specialist Selected as Voices of Inspiration Award for Teaching Excellence Finalist

Congratulations to Terri Russo, Nonpublic School Services Reading Specialist, who was selected as one of the 23 finalists for the 3rd Annual “Voices of Inspiration Award for Teaching Excellence.” Terri was honored at a May 7th awards ceremony at Normandy Farm, Blue Bell, with Merrill Reese, the voice of the Philadelphia Eagles as the awards presenter.

More than 100 educators, superintendents, family members and friends joined to commend the awardees on their superior commitment to teaching. The event recognized the finalists

with a \$500 award and gave an additional \$1,500 to the three “Grand Voices of Inspiration Winners,” Erin Stroup, Lower Moreland High School, Carol Irwin, Erdenheim Elementary and Catherine Zarcone, Perkiomen Valley Middle School East.

Voices of Inspiration, sponsored by Freedom Credit Union and the MCIU, received a significant response this year, with 1,083 nominations. The Voices of Inspiration Selection Committee chose 23 nominees - one teacher from each of the twenty-one Montgomery County public school districts, one teacher from the MCIU, and one teacher from a Montgomery County nonpublic school.

“The third Annual Voices of Inspiration was certainly a success in recognizing outstanding teachers in Montgomery County Schools,” said Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley, MCIU Executive Director/CEO. “We were especially pleased to honor Terri for her dedication to MCIU students.”

In nominating Terri, her colleagues made the following observations about her commitment to teaching:

“To say that Terri makes a difference in the lives of high school students is an understatement. She takes struggling students who have known only academic failure and little by little assists them in building up their learning strategies so that they can access knowledge and achieve despite what their past academic experiences have been.

Terri also collaborates with the content area high school teachers providing strategies and diverse ways to impart academic content to their diverse students. She was one of the first of our MCIU teachers who was trained in Reading Apprenticeship and developed a presentation and PowerPoint for high school teachers.

With her special education background, Terri also has been a learning consultant teacher for nonpublic school teachers and administrators. In this capacity, Terri would assess students and develop recommendations of strategies and ways that parents, teachers, and the student themselves could assist the student in learning. In these meetings, I have seen first hand how professional and knowledgeable Terri is. Terri explains clearly and in layman’s terms, how this particular child learns and where his/her difficulties lie. She utilizes these meetings to develop a working relationship among the parents, teachers, and administrator in developing a plan of action to assist the child in learning.”



Top Picture (left to right) Kenneth Russo, Terri Russo, Mary Rita Cleary and Nancy Myers celebrate Terri’s selection as a Voices of Inspiration for Teaching Excellence finalist at the May 7th awards ceremony. Bottom picture: Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley, MCIU Executive Director/CEO, John F. King, Executive Vice-President/COO of Freedom Credit Union, Terri Russo, Finalist, Lee T. MacMinn, President/CEO of Freedom and emcee, Merrill Reese.



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MCIU Connection

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1605 W. Main Street
Norristown, PA 19403
610-539-8550

Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley

Executive Director/CEO

Jane W. Mansuy

Asst. Executive Director/
Director of Human Resources

Stan H. Wisler

Chief Financial Officer/
Director of Management Services

Kristen Rawlings

Director of Communications

Questions? Comments?

Story Ideas?

Contact Kristen Rawlings
krawlings@mciu.org or 610-755-9313

PaTTAN Gets Fit



PaTTAN staff participated in the “National Walk at Lunch Day” hosted by the MCIU Wellness Committee and SPIRIT Committee on April 28th. Jenn Goldbloom (right) walked while at a conference in Salt Lake City, Utah!

SPIRIT Update

The MCIU Retirement Awards Ceremony on June 11th will be the 9th special event that SPIRIT members helped organize and host during the 2008-2009 school year. Among this year’s events were:

- Ice Cream Social
- Trick or Treating
- Foundation Fundraiser, “Harvest Social”
- Door Decorating Contest & Cookie Walk
- Superbowl Party
- Valentine’s Bake-Off/Silent Auction
- Salad Bar Day
- Walk to California (in coordination with the Wellness Committee)

In addition to these events, the committee held several “Lunch and Learn” sessions and hosted a book club meeting in the fall and spring. The SPIRIT Garden, a community garden which will benefit the needy, is also underway.

From fundraising events held this year and last year, the committee has raised about \$800. The goal is to use this funding to host an All-MCIU Welcome Back Picnic this September.

As a nonprofit, taxpayer funded organization, the MCIU must raise private funds to host social activities of this nature.

SPIRIT (Sending People Incentives, Recognition and Inspiration Together) was formed in November 2008 with the mission of enhancing the work environment by organizing staff activities. While the Committee is primarily focused on activities for staff working at the MCIU Norristown site, it also organizes a couple of activities annually that are accessible for all staff to attend. The committee includes representatives from each division.

Thank you to the following staff for their work this year: Jane Mansuy, Gail Kennedy, Sandy Edling, Melissa George, Jenita Lunsford, Kristen Rawlings, Nancy Myers, Barbara Gilligan, John McBride, Joe Harrington, Bonnie Neiman, Nancy Saul and Anita Watson.

Tech Trainings

During April & May, TIS was busy upgrading MCIU computers to Office 2007. More than 75 MCIU employees attended training on the software. Additional workshops will be scheduled over

the summer. Diane Miller also trained 4 employees on FileMaker 8.0 Basics.

Aspiring movie makers may want to register for the “i-movie: Script to Screen” training workshop on June 4th from 4- 5:30 pm in the Smart Classroom. To register for this class or learn about other TIS trainings, click on the “Workshops and Training Calendar” on the MCIU website.

“Tech Tips” developed by Sheldon Wedemeyer is also available on the website to help staff learn helpful computer tips.

Edling Receives Professional Registration

Congratulations to Sandy Edling, Assistant Director of Management Services, who was recently granted status as a Pennsylvania Registered School Board Administrator (PRSBA)



by the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials.

Sandy is commended for meeting the rigid personal, ethical and professional standards established by the program. These include formal education, experience and continuing education. The registration must be renewed every four years through a program of professional development.