

# Marian Greenblatt Education Fund



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## 2021 Marian Greenblatt Education Award Recipients Named

*Four Montgomery County teachers honored*

**Potomac, MD – March 10, 2021** – The Marian Greenblatt Education Fund today named four educators who will receive the 2021 Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education Awards. Three Master Teachers were selected, representing high school, middle school, and elementary school teachers. One Master Teacher awardee will go on to become Teacher of the Year for Montgomery County, MD. One Rising-Star Teacher, with fewer than six years' experience, also was recognized for excellence.

### Marian Greenblatt Master Teachers

**Ms. Patricia Richards** is a science teacher at Walter Johnson High School. Her energy and enthusiasm inspire students and faculty alike. She was instrumental in increasing the participation of minority students in high-level science courses and in boosting AP class participation by 59 percent overall. She helped to reduce the number of minority students receiving a D or E in science classes by 40 percent. She brought new AP courses to the school and helped create a summer AP teacher training workshop series. Guest speakers she hosted at the school include Dr. Anthony Fauci from NIH, Dr. Bonnie Bassler from Princeton University, and others. She organized a student trip to the Galapagos islands. Through a partnership with Rutgers University, Ms. Richards' molecular biology students discovered and published novel gene sequences.

*Principal Jennifer Baker said, "One cannot look at any aspect of the culture and climate at Walter Johnson High School without seeing a direct pathway to Ms. Richards. She is a mentor, leader, teacher, colleague, influencer, creator, believer, and so much more."*

**Mr. Joseph Bostic** is the math content specialist at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School. The action plan he developed led to a reduction of truancies school-wide from over 33 percent to less than 25 percent. He uses data to modify instruction to meet student needs, resulting in better student performance on assessments. Beyond the classroom, he holds "jam sessions" to help students with their math work, spends time with high-need students during lunch, facilitates teacher mentor groups for selected students, and serves as a CARES Act tutor. As a coach, he motivates athletes and teaches them life lessons. Mr. Bostic has worked to increase diversity in the teaching workforce, including through MCPS's Conversation Series and the BOND (Building Our Network of Diversity) project, which focuses on recruiting, supporting, and retaining male educators of color.

*A parent of one of Mr. Bostic's students remarked, "He is an exceptional teacher, mentor, and positive role model. Mr. Bostic's love of teaching shines through in this challenging teaching environment and he truly has each student's best interest at heart."*

**Ms. Sara Kopf** is a first grade teacher at New Hampshire Estates Elementary School. She has been teaching first grade for 20 years in MCPS elementary schools, spending the entire time in high-poverty schools and teaching predominantly Black and Brown students, many of whom grow up speaking a language other than English. During the 2018-2019 school year, the last year for which there is complete data, 15 of her 16 students made more than a year of reading progress. Her class proudly publishes a newspaper, *Kopf Kids News*. In 2020, she co-founded the Anti-Racist Educator Club to help teachers educate themselves and implement anti-racist education in their classrooms. Ms. Kopf has continued to teach with joy and expertise despite running a temperature for more than 200 consecutive days due to COVID-19.

*Colleague Heather Holmes observed, "Sara calls her students, 'Kopf's Kids,' and she values each one of her students' progress and achievement in school. Her students are taught to never give up. They recite a daily mantra including phrases like, 'I am valued. I am loved. I can achieve anything!'"*

### **Marian Greenblatt Rising-Star Teacher**

**Ms. Lindsey Flint** is a fourth grade teacher at Chevy Chase Elementary. She provides rigorous instruction through teaching strategies that showcase student learning. She supplements the curriculum by providing opportunities for students to master skills that may have not been mastered in previous years, as well as embedding enrichment and acceleration opportunities for each student in her class. Ms. Flint uses assessment results to plan for appropriate next steps for instruction, and uses creative ideas to keep students engaged. Data reflect substantial growth and high assessment scores. Outside the classroom, she has sponsored several afterschool activities including cheerleading, stage crew for a play, and newspaper club.

*A former student said, "I didn't like reading or math. I didn't like going to school. I walked into this awesome class that was so interesting. She had purple or blue hair, books, funny expressions, and everything I needed to want to stay. She never, ever made me feel that I wasn't the smartest kid in the class."*

### **About the Awards**

Master Teacher Award recipients receive a \$2000 award, and Rising-Star awardees receive \$1000. In the spring, one Master Teacher will be named Montgomery County Teacher of the Year and could ultimately become National Teacher of the Year. One Marian Greenblatt Fund awardee, Kim Oliver, was named National Teacher of the Year in 2006.

The Marian Greenblatt Education Fund is a 501c(3) non-profit organization established in 1988 to honor the memory of Dr. Marian Greenblatt, a leader in education and education policy in Montgomery County. Since its inception, the Fund has awarded more than \$189,000 to outstanding teachers and students. In addition to its annual Master Teacher and Rising Star Teacher awards, the Fund presents awards for student excellence in Social Studies and in Foreign Languages.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.greenblatteducationfund.org>

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