



Marian Greenblatt Education Fund

MCPS Distinguished Service Award Speech

Thank you to the Board of Education, for this award.

31 years ago yesterday, my wife Dr. Marian Greenblatt passed away. To honor her memory, my sons and I started the Marian Greenblatt Fund. They are here with two of my eight grandchildren, who will keep this Fund going for years.

Our mission, then and now, has been to put a spotlight on excellent teachers and students in the county.

Who was Marian Greenblatt? Marian Greenblatt was on the Board for eight years, at a time when very few women were on the Board. She worked for requiring every student K-12 to read fifteen minutes every day; for extra credit for students taking AP classes, so if you Ms. Tadikonda have more than a 4.0 grade point average, it is in part due to Marian Greenblatt; for no hooky; for no frivolous courses; for more books and less administrative costs; and for expansion of the Career & Technical Education program. But she was at heart a teacher all her career. On the Board she was an advocate for teachers, so it seems right to honor local teachers.

In the 31 years, we have chosen and honored 110 teachers and 545 students with \$178,300 in awards for being excellent teachers, excellent Social Studies students, excellent Foreign Language students, and excellent University of Maryland aspiring teachers.

What a fabulous group we have put in the spotlight. They are the cream of the crop, and what a fabulous crop.

It's actually ironic that I am getting this honor tonight, when the teachers are doing the hard work. They are the ones who turn our kindergartners into little human beings. They are the ones who tame our middle schoolers. They are the ones who prepare our high schoolers for life after school. They should be our focus. They should get our thanks. Not just our 110 teachers, but all 13,000 teachers doing the most important work in the country, making the future. And we should remember the folks at Human Resources who hire them in the first place. And the principals who bring them along in the "MCPS Way." And the Board of Education and Administration that sets the framework for the excellence that we citizens are enjoying.

A lot of praise to go around, and for a good reason. We have an outstanding system. It takes work to keep it great. The nation needs educated citizens more than ever. This was Marian Greenblatt's vision. And it is ours. Let's keep at it.