



Arlington
Education
Foundation

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**Arlington Education Foundation Announces 2013 STARS Teachers of the Year
Program Raises \$12,000**

Arlington Education Foundation (AEF) is pleased to announce the 2013 Ottoson Middle School and Arlington High School STARS Teachers of the Year.

- **Cassandra Mea**, Ottoson Middle School World Languages
- **Sabato D'Agostino**, Director of the Arlington High School Jazz Band, Orchestra and Symphonic Band

AEF's STARS (School Teachers Are Really Special) program allows parents and students to recognize K-12 teachers who make a difference. This fiscal year, the STARS program raised over \$12,000, a record high since the program started in 2000. Over 210 teachers were recognized by students and families, with nearly 500 STARS certificates awarded.

Each year, the Ottoson Middle School and Arlington High School teachers who receive the most STARS are named 'STARS Teachers of the Year.' "It is an honor to recognize Ms. Mea and Mr. D'Agostino as the winners of this year's awards. These hard-working, dedicated teachers are passionate and innovative and Arlington is fortunate to have them" said Rebecca Steinitz, AEF President.

The goal of the STARS program is two-fold: to allow parents and students to recognize star teachers and staff; and to help fund school enrichment projects in the arts, sciences, math, literacy, and more. When a family makes a donation to the STARS program in honor of a teacher, the teacher receives a certificate of recognition letting them know that they are a STAR and a donation to AEF has been made in their honor.

In fiscal year 2013, community donations enabled AEF to award nearly \$100,000 in grants to the Arlington Public Schools. AEF works to support and advance public education in Arlington, Massachusetts. AEF funds system wide initiatives and creative new projects to enhance the educational experiences of Arlington's teachers and students. In June 2013, AEF received the Town of Arlington's Cyrus E. Dallin Award for outstanding and meritorious service in the area of education, art, culture or philanthropy. For more information on AEF's current and past grants, or to donate, visit www.arlingtoneducationfoundationma.org.

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