



Arlington
Education
Foundation

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**Arlington Education Foundation Announces 2014 STARS Teachers of the Year
*Program Raises over \$14,000***

Arlington Education Foundation (AEF) announced the 2014 Ottoson Middle School and Arlington High School STARS Teachers of the Year:

- **Nanta Hardesty**, Ottoson Middle School English Teacher
- **Justin Bourassa**, Arlington High School English Teacher

The STARS (School Teachers are Really Special) program enables parents and students to say 'Thank You' to a teacher who has made a difference. This fiscal year, the STARS program raised \$14,409, a record high since the program started in 2000 and a 7.8% increase over 2013. With nearly 600 STARS certificates awarded, students and families recognized 265 teachers.

Each year, the Ottoson Middle School and Arlington High School teachers who receive the most STARS are named 'STARS Teacher of the Year.' AEF President Rebecca Steinitz reflects "It is an honor each year for AEF to recognize teachers who truly make a difference in the lives of Arlington students. Ms. Hardesty and Mr. Bourassa are truly stars in everything they do, and we are pleased to recognize them."

The goal of the STARS program is twofold: 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.

For the past four years, community donations have enabled AEF to award over \$100,000 annually in grants to the Arlington Public Schools. In fiscal year 2014, AEF awarded an additional \$70,000 as part of a three-year Technology Initiative to accelerate technology in the Arlington Public Schools. AEF works to support and advance public education in Arlington and funds system-wide initiatives and creative new projects to enhance the educational experiences of Arlington's teachers and students. For more information on AEF's current and past grants, or to donate, visit www.arlingtoneducationfoundationma.org.