



**June 2017**

**Arlington Education Foundation Announces Teachers of the Year**  
*AEF STARS program raises \$23,750*

Arlington Education Foundation (AEF) recently announced the 2017 Ottoson Middle School and Arlington High School STARS Teachers of the Year.

- Alison Sancinito, 6th grade history teacher at Ottoson Middle School
- Danielle Raad, science and archeology teacher at Arlington High School

For seventeen years, the STARS (School Teaches Are Really Special) program has given families an opportunity to recognize and honor teachers by making a donation to AEF in the teachers' names. All money raised through the program, funds AEF's grant making mission to enhance Arlington's Public Schools. Each year, the Arlington High School and Ottoson Middle School teachers who receive the most STARS certificates receive the Teacher of the Year award.

After receiving her award, Ms Sancinito stated, "It is so nice to be acknowledged by the community for my work. Middle school is such a unique time for kids, [and] I am happy to do what I can to support students and to engage them in their learning. I appreciate the support of AEF in making this happen."

Earlier this spring, Ms. Sancinito was recognized for her hard work and was awarded the William Spratt Award for Excellence in Teaching Middle School Social Studies by the Massachusetts Council for Social Studies.

In 2015, Ms Sancinito was the recipient of an AEF Innovations in Education grant. The grant, "Flexible Classroom: Designing Spaces for Personalized Learning", funded the transformation of four traditional Ottoson classrooms into more flexible and collaborative learning spaces that meet the needs of diverse learners.

After Ms. Raad received her award and was applauded by her students, she stated, "I'm so honored for this recognition. I've had such a great year at AHS and want to thank all of my students for their enthusiasm, hard work, and positive energy - they're really the reason why I love being a science teacher."

In the fall of 2016, Ms Raad was awarded an AEF Innovations in Education grant to establish a new archaeology class. In January 2017, her work was recognized when she was honored as the American Association for the Advancement of Science's (AAAS) Teacher of the Month. An interview with Ms. Raad is available at this link: <https://www.aaas.org/blog/member-spotlight/teacher-month-danielle-raad>

This fiscal year, parents from all ten of Arlington's public schools purchased nearly 800 STARS certificates to recognize teachers across the district.

For over twenty-five years, AEF has been supporting public education in Arlington and currently awards approximately \$120,000 annually in grants to teachers and schools. AEF funds system-wide initiatives and creative new projects that enhance public education throughout the school district. For more information visit [www.aefma.org](http://www.aefma.org).