

# Virginia Department of Education

## News Release



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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Two Virginia K-12 Educators Receive \$25,000 Milken Awards** ***Frederick County Middle and Prince William County High Teachers Honored***

Two outstanding Virginia educators from Frederick and Prince William counties received \$25,000 awards today from the Milken Family Foundation. Milken Educator Awards Senior Vice President Jane Foley and Superintendent of Public Instruction Jo Lynne DeMary presented the awards during surprise assemblies at each winner's school.

"It is exciting to see two Virginia educators receive national recognition," said Dr. DeMary. "Through the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards program, these teachers are being recognized as among 'the best of the best' in the nation. Too often the excellent efforts of our teachers are overlooked, so I am pleased to have this opportunity today to acknowledge the work of these outstanding educators."

"A key component of a quality education for our children is having dedicated and talented teachers," said Dr. Foley. "The success of future generations lies in the hands of these inspiring educators. We salute them and their outstanding work with their students."

The Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards are designed to reward and provide recognition for elementary and secondary school teachers, principals, and administrators who promote excellence and innovation in public education. The 2003 Virginia recipients are:

- Reagan Rangel, an eighth-grade mathematics and Algebra I teacher at Frederick County Middle School in Winchester. As her school's lead math teacher, Rangel inspired teachers to use technologies as learning tools by providing staff development in the use of graphic calculators and manipulatives. She collaborated with other teachers to create and share Standards of Learning (SOL) review materials including multi-media materials, take-home student CDs, and an interactive Internet site. In 2002, students in her school had a SOL pass rate of 87 percent in mathematics and 100 percent in Algebra I.
- Alexander Carter, a ninth-grade history/social studies teacher at C.D. Hylton High School in Woodbridge. Carter is recognized for his passionate and inspiring class lectures and debates on World History. In addition to serving as the chair of Hylton's social studies department, he plays an active leadership role in the school's Center for International Studies and Languages. Previous honors include the University of Richmond Governor's School 1998 Presidential Citation and his school division's Staff Recognition Award for Performance in 2000. Students at his school had a 97 percent pass rate on the World History SOL test in 2002.

*(more)*

Rangel and Carter join 19 other Virginia teachers who have been recognized with the prestigious Milken Educator Awards since Virginia began participating in 1999.

Educators are recommended for the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award without their knowledge by a blue-ribbon panel appointed by each participating state's department of education. Recipients of the awards are selected on the basis of numerous criteria, including:

- Exceptional educational talent as evidenced by student achievement and outstanding instructional practices in the classroom, school, and profession;
- Outstanding accomplishments and strong long-range potential for professional and policy leadership; and
- Engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues, and the community at-large.

The Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards were established in 1985. The awards program, dubbed "the Oscars of Teaching" by Teacher Magazine, is the largest of its kind in the country. Since the inception of the program the Milken Family Foundation has distributed more than \$46 million in awards to 1,877 educators in 46 states. This month, 100 new recipients from across the country are being announced in surprise assemblies at their schools. This year's award winners will receive their unrestricted \$25,000 prizes in May 2004 at the Milken Family Foundation National Education Conference in Washington.

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