



NEWS RELEASE

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Baltimore County Public Schools teachers win 3 of 4 Maryland Art Teacher of the Year awards

TOWSON, MD. – At its annual fall conference, held on October 16, the Maryland Art Education Association named Baltimore County Public Schools teachers as three of its four Maryland Art Teachers of the Year for 2009.

Grace Hulse of Orems Elementary School was named Elementary Teacher of the Year. **Kathleen Calkins of Patapsco High School and Center for the Arts was named High School Teacher of the Year.** The Retired Teacher of the Year award went to Duane Sabiston, now an artist-in-residence at Milford Mill Academy and Dundalk High School.

In addition to the statewide awards, district-level awards are also presented at the conference. The Visual Arts Office of Baltimore County Public Schools recognized “new” teachers who are within their first two years of teaching in the district, “career” teachers who have taught in the school system for 10 years or more, and one retired educator. The new teachers honored were Stacy Aghalarov of Pot Spring Elementary School, Vernon Fains of Woodlawn Middle School, and Rebecca Meiller McCullagh of Woodlawn High School. The career teachers recognized included Renee Whelehan of Harford Hills Elementary School, Charles Heil of Perry Hall Middle School, and Vicki Ali of Sparrows Point High School. Ron Brigerman, who taught at Pinewood Elementary School, was saluted as retired educator of the year.

“Our BCPS visual arts teachers integrate studio practice and creative expression with art history and critical response to promote greater learning,” said Linda Popp, visual arts coordinator for Baltimore County Public Schools. “They implement a rich, rigorous visual arts curriculum and facilitate a culture of artistic thinking, learning, creative production and achievement of excellence. Our teachers are able to bring their deep understanding of the artistic process to their students based on their own personal art experiences.”

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Under the leadership of Superintendent Joe A. Hairston, Ed.D., Baltimore County Public Schools, the nation's 26th largest school district, educates 104,000 students each year. Following its *Blueprint for Progress*, BCPS increases academic rigor and student achievement for all. BCPS attracts recognition for its emphasis on college-readiness, use of innovative technology, and the excellence of its high schools and fine arts instruction.