



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**2003 DISNEY'S AMERICAN TEACHER AWARDS
TO HONOR SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S BEST TEACHERS WITH ANNUAL AWARDS
GALA AT DISNEYLAND RESORT JULY 22**

Awards Totaling More Than \$1 Million for Teachers and Schools to Be Presented

BURBANK, Calif. — The Disneyland Resort will host the 2003 Disney's American Teacher Award recipients July 19-22, in a four-day extravaganza during which the 32 honorees will be recognized with an awards gala, exclusive VIP parties and a parade down Main Street to commemorate their outstanding achievements in the classroom.

This award honors representatives of the teaching profession who construct creative learning environments in which students and teachers alike explore, imagine and engage in a variety of thought-provoking experiences. These honorees were selected from more than 185,000 nominations submitted by students, parents, educators and community members representing all regions of the country.

The 32 honorees (see finalists' names below) were chosen by a national committee of distinguished educators. On July 22, 2003, the teachers will be celebrated at a gala held at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, Calif., and the Outstanding Teacher of the Year will be chosen from among the teachers.

The Walt Disney Company will award \$25,000 to the Outstanding Teacher of the Year, with the Outstanding Teacher's school receiving \$10,000. All 32 honorees will receive \$10,000 each, with their respective schools receiving \$5,000.

"Disney's American Teacher Award honors the men and women whose pride in their profession takes students beyond the confines of curriculums and classrooms," said Michael D. Eisner, chairman and CEO, The Walt Disney Company. "Recognizing the innovation, energy and insight these teachers display is only half of what this award seeks to accomplish – the



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other is to foster the exchange of these valuable methods, tools and philosophies with other teachers across America.”

The teachers and their principals will attend a workshop in October 2003 at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla., where they will share their creative teaching practices, and also develop an action plan focused on improving professional collaboration and teacher learning in their own schools during the 2003-2004 school year.

The honorees were chosen by a selection committee composed of representatives of the following organizations: American Association of School Administrators, American Federation of Teachers, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, The Council for American Private Education, Council for Exceptional Children, Council of Great City Schools, The Galef Institute, Harvard University's Project Zero, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, National Education Association, National Middle School Association, National PTA. In addition, past Disney's American Teacher Awards Honorees serve on the selection committee.

Since 1989, Disney's American Teacher Awards have saluted 450 exemplary teachers in Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade for innovative teaching methods that actively engage students in learning. The focus of Disney's American Teacher Awards is to recognize the teaching profession, showcase creativity in the classroom, and honor those who can assist in developing creative teaching strategies in their school districts.

Nominations for the 2004 Disney's American Teacher Awards will take place Aug. 15 – Oct. 3, 2003. Teachers can be nominated by students, former students, student's parents, principals, or members of the community by calling the toll-free number 1-877-ATA-TEACH (1-877-282-8322), or by logging on to www.disneyhand.com. Nominations will not be accepted before Aug. 15.

Disney's American Teacher Awards is part of DisneyHand, worldwide outreach for The Walt Disney Company, whose mission is to make the dreams of families and children a reality through public service initiatives, community outreach and volunteerism in areas of learning, compassion, the arts and the environment. For more information on Disney's corporate public service efforts, please visit our Web site at www.disneyhand.com.

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2002 Honorees for Disney's American Teacher Awards

Elementary

Early Childhood

- **Mr. Randy Heite**, Kingsley Elementary, Chicago; Kindergarten
- **Mrs. Pauline Jacroux**, Aikahi Elementary, Kailua, Hawaii; 1st Grade
- **Mrs. Pam Johnson**, Koliganek School, Koliganek, Alaska; Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

Primary

- **Mr. Dano Beal**, Lafayette Elementary School, Seattle; 2nd Grade Gifted
- **Mrs. Rosanne Pettignano-Kirchmann**, St. Barnabas Elementary, Bronx, N.Y.; 2nd Grade
- **Miss Pamela Roller**, Galveston Elementary School, Galveston, Ind.; 2nd Grade

Intermediate

- **Mrs. Cecelia Lucero**, Laguna Elementary School, Laguna Pueblo, N.M.; 4th Grade
- **Mrs. Gail McGoogan**, Narcoossee Community School, St. Cloud, Fla.; 4th Grade
- **Mr. John Pieper**, Webster Stanley Elementary School, Oshkosh, Wis.; 5th Grade

Middle School/Junior High

Science and Math

- **Ms. Patricia Dick**, Blatchley Middle School, Sitka, Alaska; 6th Grade
- **Mr. Jack Joyce**, Pretty Eagle Catholic School, St. Xavier, Mont.; 5th-8th Grades
- **Mr. Mark Weaver**, Clay Junior High School, Indianapolis; 7th-8th Grades

The Humanities

- **Mrs. Janice Daubenmier & Mrs. Debby Kent**, Hastings Middle School, Columbus, Ohio; Language Arts/History Team
- **Mr. Davy Meister**, Martin Meylin Middle School, Lampeter, Pa.; Language Arts
- **Mrs. Roxane Rollins**, Roosevelt Middle School, Oceanside, Calif.; Core Humanities, Literature

High School

Science and Math

- **Mrs. Celeste Ball**, Kutztown High School, Kutztown, Pa.; Agricultural Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Horticulture, Food Sciences
- **Ms. Julie Joyner**, Palm Beach Lakes Community High School, West Palm Beach, Fla.; Medical Choice Programs
- **Ms. Sherri Steward-Ganz**, Grapevine High School, Grapevine, Texas; Biology, Environmental Systems, Adv. Ecology

The Humanities

- **Mrs. Kerry Demers**, Salpointe Catholic High School, Tucson, Ariz.; AP World Literature, English, Shakespeare
- **Dr. Penny Ferguson & Mr. Mark White**, Maryville High School, Maryville, Tenn.; English & History Team
- **Mr. Daniel Moran**, East Brunswick High School, Kendall Park, N.J.; American Literature, Creative Writing, Shakespeare

Kindergarten through 12th Grade

The Arts

- **Mrs. Margaret Elder**, Anaheim High School, Anaheim, Calif.; High School Dance
- **Mr. Tim Flinchbaugh**, Standing Stone Elementary / Jackson Miller Elementary, Huntingdon, Pa.; Elementary Music
- **Ms. Connie Rohde-Stanchfield**, Santa Ynez Valley Union High School, Santa Ynez, Calif.; High School Visual Arts

Special Education

- **Ms. Marianne Piemonte**, Marlton Charter School, Los Angeles; Middle Students who are deaf & hard of hearing
- **Mrs. Barbara McLaughlin**, Chebanse Elementary, Chebanse, Ill.; Elementary students with varying exceptionalities

- **Mrs. Wendy Miller**, James W. Smith Elementary School, Cove City, N.C.; Elementary students who are Mentally Disabled

Wellness & Sports

- **Mrs. Pam Atkins**, Will Davis Elementary, Austin, Texas; Elementary Physical Education
- **Mrs. Judith Griffin**, Morton Jr. High School, Morton, Ill.; Middle School Health & Computer Science
- **Dr. John R. Passarini**, Wayland Public Schools, Wayland, Mass.; Adapted Physical Education, Pre-Kindergarten - Adult age students