



Golden Apple

Golden Apple Awards Ceremony Fact Sheet

The Golden Apple Awards Ceremony annually honors 10 outstanding teachers from public and non-public schools in Cook, Lake and DuPage counties of Illinois. Since the inaugural event in 1986, 210 teachers have received Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

The Awards Ceremony is the Foundation's premier event. It represents a unique partnership with WTTW/11 and Northwestern University.

In addition to the Awards Ceremony, Golden Apple provides winners with

- A tuition-free fall sabbatical of courses at Northwestern University
- A personal computer
- A \$3,000 cash award
- Induction into the Golden Apple Academy, which is comprised of past Golden Apple Award winners. The Academy is the creative heart of the Foundation. It serves as an education resource providing programs and ideas to improve education for all students.

Teachers are nominated for the award by fellow educators, administrators, past and present students, parents, and the general public. The Foundation receives about 1,000 nominations every year.

Award selection is determined by a volunteer committee of more than 70 professional educators, including former Golden Apple Award winners.

Nominees must complete a written application that is reviewed by members of the selection committee. Some 30 finalists are selected in February of each year and are then observed in their classrooms before the 10 winners are chosen. Finalists and their principals are honored at the Celebration of Excellence in Teaching luncheon in February.

The Awards program rotates the grade level for nominees each year in a three-year cycle: grades 9-12 (2007), grades 4-8 (2008), and grades Pre-K to 3 (2009).

The Awards Ceremony is televised each spring by WTTW/11 as a one-hour prime-time special. The programs include videotaped scenes of Award winners in their classrooms.

The Awards program is underwritten by local corporations, foundations, and individual donors who share Golden Apple's conviction that all children deserve excellent teachers.