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BRAVO! to 759 Partnerships and Thousands of School Volunteers



PENCIL closed out the school year with our annual BRAVO! Luncheon, celebrating 29 years of PENCIL Partners and volunteers in Metro Schools. We are proud to report that there are 759 PENCIL Partnerships supporting students with everything from tutoring and mentoring to school beautification projects to providing internships to high

school students. Our web-based volunteer tracking system, schoolvolunteers.org, reports that PENCIL volunteers have contributed nearly \$1,700,000 in services to our schools this year and over \$650,000 was donated for supplies and monetary donations.

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Special Thanks

Overton High School Drumline for Musical Performance / McGavock Air Force Junior ROTC for Presentation of Colors / DeOndrea Foster Pearl-Cohn High School for National Anthem / Fall-Hamilton Stepping START Team / Dan Mills Elementary for Table Displays



top to bottom, L to R:
Dr. Virginia Shepherd, Vanderbilt Center for Science Outreach, accepts the Mayor's Award for Outstanding System-wide Partner; McGavock Air Force Junior ROTC; DeOndrea Foster sings Nat'l Anthem; Overton High School Drumline; CMT General Manager Brian Phillips accepts the Mayor's Award

OUR MISSION: LINKING COMMUNITY RESOURCES WITH NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE ACHIEVE ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND PREPARE FOR LIFE

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Mayor Dean Honors Outstanding PENCIL Partners

Mayor Karl Dean has been instrumental in the work of PENCIL to recruit more businesses to partner with our schools. For two years now, he has also worked through PENCIL so that Metro employees were given the time to volunteer in schools. And this year, he has brought Laurel Creech onto his team to launch a citywide volunteer initiative called IMPACT Nashville. By continuing the annual Mayor's Award for Outstanding School Partner and System-Wide Partner, is just another example of his commitment to public schools. Since 2001, the Mayor's Awards have honored some of the most dedicated PENCIL Partners in the city.

This year's winner of the Mayor's Award for Outstanding School Partner is CMT for its work with McGavock High School's Digital Design and Communication Academy. To kick off this partnership, 75 CMT employees taught classes, hosted a career exploration fair for 500 students and transformed an old storage room into a student-run television studio. They have offered job shadowing experiences for students, an externship for teachers and in one year, accumulated 1100 volunteer hours at the school. Honorable Mentions in this category went to City Church for its work with KIPP Academy, Madison Church of Christ for its work with Madison Middle and Davidson, Golden & Lundy for its work with Harris-Hillman School.

Mayor Dean awarded Vanderbilt Center for Science Outreach the Mayor's Award for Outstanding System-Wide Partner for its 11-year partnership with other local universities and MNPS to implement a 'Volunteer Scientist in the Classroom Partnership.' Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows partner with middle and high school educators to teach one full day per week in the classroom. Participating teachers have called this 'the best program in the past 30 years for enhancing science learning by K-12 students.' Honorable Mention in this category went to Deloitte.



Enduring Partnerships - 10 Yrs.



Enduring Partnerships - 15 Yrs.



Enduring Partnerships - 20 Yrs.



Partnership Coordinator - 10 Yrs.



Partnership Coordinator - 15 Yrs.



Partnership Coordinator - 25 Yrs.



Valerie Hays, Deloitte



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10 Years

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20 years

Free Will Baptist Bible College & Tom Joy Elementary / Nashville Medical Group & Harris-Hillman School / Innophos, Inc. & Cockrill Elementary / Brandywine Womens Club & Andrew Jackson Elementary

Partnership Coordinators Awards of Service

10 years

Cindy Rouch, Opry Mills, Cathy Neal, Allstate Insurance Company, Jay English, Davidson County Juvenile Court, LaWanda Plowden, Alley-Cassetty Coal Company, Jennifer Anderson, Westminster Presbyterian Church

15 years – John Doerge, Deloitte

25 years – Bill Rochford, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Busy Creative Artists Agency Agent Makes Time for Students



Orrin Ingram presents Jeff Gregg with the 2011 E. Bronson Ingram Award

PENCIL was thrilled to present Jeff Gregg with the 2011 E. Bronson Ingram Award at this year's BRAVO! Luncheon. Recipients of this award have a servant's heart, a compassion for children and desire to make public education a priority in their lives, just as Ingram, one of PENCIL's founders, did for so many years. For nearly 15 years, Gregg, an agent at Creative Artists Agency, has been the driving force behind the PENCIL Partnership with Whitsitt Elementary. He encourages staff to be hands-on and have a pres-

ence at the school and because of their involvement they have touched the lives of literally thousands of children. No matter how busy, you can expect Gregg to be Reading Partner – a weekly commitment at the school - and to be present for board meetings and brainstorming sessions. Gregg has been a PENCIL board member for many years and was the chairman in 2010.

In addition to time spent at Whitsitt, Gregg has also been an active volunteer with teens at Stratford High School and is just beginning work with students at the new Entertainment Business Academy at Pearl-Cohn. A Whitsitt staff member shared kind words about Jeff, "All of us at Whitsitt are so excited that Jeff is receiving this award! It is hard to put into words all he has done for our school. I remember the first time I met him. I was a new librarian at the school and he came in with a student. The obvious care that he exhibited working with the child made me think he was his father. I later learned that he was his reading partner."

Finally, PENCIL is truly grateful to Gregg for being the brain trust behind A LITTLE NIGHT of MUSIC. Through his efforts and those of his CAA colleagues, there is an incredible night of music each year that in all has raised close to \$500,000 for PENCIL's work in our schools. 🎵

PENCIL Awards Group Volunteer of the Year

There are thousands of volunteers working with PENCIL to help support Metro School students. Each year, one of those volunteers is honored as Volunteer of the Year at BRAVO! This year, six amazing individuals—the inaugural chairmen of the six high school partnership councils – picked up the award. Each of these community leaders spent countless hours help-

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ing Metro Schools plan and implement business engagement for the Academies of Nashville. PENCIL congratulates, Kelly Dando, Associated General Contractors of Tennessee, Kira Florita, Nashville Opera, Thom Druffel, Holiday Inn Vanderbilt, Kent Fourman, Permanent General Companies, Bill Rochford, Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Jeff Yarbro, Bass Berry Sims, for all of their hard work. As partnership council chairmen, they helped PENCIL, the Nashville Chamber, and Metro Schools recruit council members, identify potential academy partners, participate in strategic planning sessions, and plan the first Career Exploration Fair for freshmen students. 🏆



L to R: Connie Williams, Jeff Yarbro, Kent Fourman, Bill Rochford, Tom Druffel, Kira Florita Kelly Dando

Academy Students of the Year



Congratulations to the Academy Students of the Year, an award presented by the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce to outstanding high school students representing a career academy:

back row: Gerald Harris, Pearl Cohn / Kareem Wright, Maplewood / (Deloitte representative Valerie Hays) / Megan Watson, Stratford / Kaitlyn Carter, Whites Creek / Elliott Martin, McGawock

front row: Edgar Bolivar, Overton / Tyreke Ansah, Glenciff / Diamond Wright, Hunters Lane / Ashley Brown, Hillwood / Diamond Grimes, Antioch / Emma Loyer, Hillsboro / Cody Dawson, Cane Ridge

Dell Laptop Bags Fly off the Shelves!

Dell is a great friend to PENCIL and to PENCIL Partner schools Paragon Mills Elementary and Glenciff High. Dell is a funder of PENCIL's Math Partners program and sends groups of volunteers to work at LP PENCIL each year. In addition, Dell's Reverse Supply Chain facility in Lebanon has donated thousands of the computer cases. These are one of the most sought after donations at LPPB. Russell Jones, a computer lab teacher at West End Middle, provides a laptop bag to each student that reaches an efficiency level of 50 words per minute and holds a 90% accuracy score his keyboarding class.

"The donation helps keep the kids interested and also motivates them to achieve the goals I set for them. I couldn't be more grateful for the resources we receive from LP PENCIL Box via the community. It is and hopefully will continue to be a great boon for teachers in Metro Nashville Public Schools." Since 2005, more than \$60,000 worth of laptop bags have been distributed! 🏆

Jobs for Tennessee Graduates

PENCIL celebrated our senior Jobs for Tennessee Graduates participants in the annual Salute to Excellence Luncheon held at Lipscomb University's Allen Arena in April. JTG, an affiliate of Jobs for America's Graduates, provides school-to-career services such as job-readiness instruction, opportunities for leadership development, and post-graduation assistance. PENCIL Foundation coordi-



nates the program in the following Metro high schools: Antioch, Glenciff, Hunters Lane, Maplewood, McGavock, Pearl-Cohn and Stratford and Whites Creek and a middle school component called Career Exploration Program Wright, Cameron and Croft Middle Schools. At the luncheon students received awards for various areas including designing the program cover, interview skills and public speaking. PENCIL is very proud of the class of 2011! 🍷

Reading Partners Volunteer Shares Experience

Volunteer Mary Schoettle has given her time to help several students at Napier Elementary Enhanced Option become better readers through PENCIL's Reading Partners program.

During her two years, she has learned how to help students who have different styles of learning. One student who had difficulty with speech would scream out the sight words he was working on, and Mary learned that by ignoring the behavior and continuing on with the lesson, that the screaming finally stopped. Soon after, this student began spelling words correctly.

Thanks to Reading Partners volunteers, over 4,000 students across the Metropolitan Nashville Public School district have been provided with one-on-one assistance since the program's inception in 2000, and Classroom readers have shared their love of books through read-aloud sessions with over 17,000 children. For some students, the only opportunity they have to practice new reading skills on a one-to-one basis is with their Reading Partners, so the role of the volunteer is even more important. The Reading Partner volunteers become friends and provide extra encouragement and support for their students as they work on reading skills together.

Schoettle has also learned some techniques that she shares with other Reading Partners. "When working on sight words, I have the students close their eyes and spell the word. Recently, I began having each child look at the ceiling and spell the word - or if they are really having difficulty, I have them hold their arm out straight and trace the letters in the air as they are spelling out loud."

"The most important lesson I have learned is that I am NOT a teacher," she said. "I could not do what a teacher does that somehow makes the miracle of reading happen. I am there to help reinforce what has been taught. And that is fun and rewarding." 🍷

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