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Area Special Education Teachers Honored
*Sixth annual Celebrate Teachers & Teaching awards program
recognizes outstanding educators*

MILWAUKEE, WI (October 10, 2018) – Two Milwaukee-area special education teachers were honored tonight for their exemplary work as part of the sixth annual Celebrate Teachers & Teaching awards ceremony, held this year at Cardinal Stritch University.

Heidi Hamilton, the transition coordinator at Arrowhead High School in Hartland, received the Advanced Career Teaching Award, and Kaitlynn Moquet, lead student support teacher at Stellar Collegiate Charter School in Milwaukee for K4-Grade 3, received the Early Career Teaching Award. Fifteen teachers were nominated for the 2018 awards. The top two award recipients received a \$1,000 cash award, and nominees in the Early Career and Advanced Career categories each received a \$100 cash award. They, along with their fellow nominees, were honored in front of an audience of about 200 people celebrating teachers at Wednesday night's event.

Hamilton, who has taught at Arrowhead High School for 25 years, works primarily with 11th and 12th graders and always has an eye on what her students will be doing once they graduate. She has pioneered inclusive practices in the English curriculum, and worked with her co-teachers to modify lessons to make them accessible to all students. She also created an annual event where representatives from dozens of programs and agencies who service adults with special needs talk about the services they provide. The event is so successful, other schools in Waukesha County have contacted her and now host their own similar events.

Moquet, who has been at Stellar Collegiate Charter School for two years, provides instruction for students who have academic Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), and helps other students who need additional academic and behavioral support. She currently leads and manages two paraprofessionals who support students in her caseload, and she collaborates with her general education peers to ensure they are supporting the needs of every child. She is described as “relentlessly positive, persistent and creative, and an exemplary staff member.”

In addition to the educators recognized, Danae Davis received the 2018 Champion of Education Award. Davis is the executive director of Milwaukee Succeeds, an initiative of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation with a mission to ensure the success of every child in Milwaukee. Prior to Milwaukee Succeeds, Davis served as the CEO of PEARLS for Teen Girls, an organization that empowers adolescent girls and offers them leadership development. She serves on the board of directors for several organizations including Milwaukee Charter School Advocates.

Sponsors of the 2018 Celebrate Teachers & Teaching event include The Faye McBeath Foundation, The Herzfield Foundation, The Kelben Foundation, The Milwaukee Urban League, and The Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation.

For more information, visit marquette.edu/education/education-deans/event or contact Jon Ziesemer, Steering Committee Co-Chair, at 414-443-8854 or jon.ziesemer@mail.wlc.edu, or Marian Graeven Peter, Steering Committee Co-Chair, at 414-410-4358 or mgraevenpeter@stritch.edu.

Celebrate Teachers and Teaching is an initiative of the Education Deans of Greater Milwaukee (EDGM). The group is comprised of leadership from nine area institutions of higher education, including Alverno College, Cardinal Stritch University, Carroll University, Concordia University Wisconsin, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Wisconsin Lutheran College, Marquette University, Mt. Mary University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. EDGM aims to leverage the assets of all institutions involved to support the continuous improvement of PK-21 education in the region, and serve the greater good, especially students in the Milwaukee Metro Area and learners of all types and ages. The awards program is just one of the ways EDGM seeks to uplift the outstanding work of some of Wisconsin's teachers.

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High-resolution photos from Celebrate Teachers and Teaching 2018 are available upon request.