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Media Contact:

Karen Coy-Romano, 414-288-5574

Karen.coy-romano@marquette.edu

Milwaukee Celebrates STEM Teachers

Fourth annual community event recognizes outstanding educators

MILWAUKEE, WI (September 27, 2016) – For the fourth year in a row, the Education Deans of Greater Milwaukee (EDGM) will host an event honoring the work of teachers in the Milwaukee area. The theme for this year’s Celebrate Teachers & Teaching event is STEM, and it will take place on Thursday, October 13 at Discovery World, 500 N. Harbor Dr.

The event will kick off at 4:00 p.m. with a panel discussion on making STEM education accessible for all. Panelists include Joel Brennan, President and CEO of Discovery World; Romel R. Tolbert, Executive, GE Healthcare, MPS Partnership; Patricia Hoben, Ph.D., Co-Founder/CEO, Carmen Schools of Science and Technology; Angela Frey, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Technology Division, Alverno College; Rich Merkel, Executive Director, STEM Forward; and Antonio Rodriguez, STEM Curriculum Specialist, Division of Career & Technical Education, Milwaukee Public Schools.

At 5:30 p.m., guests can tour Discovery World, and at 6:00 p.m. the festivities will begin in the Pilot House. The celebration will include hors d’ oeuvres and a cash bar.

Celebrate Teachers & Teaching pays homage to the central importance of teachers to the success of our youth and our region’s continuing economic and social development, is open to the public and all who support the work of teachers are encouraged to attend. Eligibility for these awards is open to preschool through 12th grade educators, and they can be nominated by their principals, colleagues, parents or students.

Nominees in the “Distinguished Educator” category include:

- Norman Andrews, Elmbrook Schools
- Elizabeth A. Eiland, North Division High School
- Craig Machut, Rufus King High School
- Alicia M. Miranda, Siefert Elementary School
- Patricia A. Mockus, Greenfield Bilingual School
- Veronica Ocampoderocha, Greenfield Bilingual School
- Madelyn Pellot Vega, Milwaukee Spanish Immersion School
- Christine Eschrich Pollesch, Milwaukee Public Schools
- Sharon Tomski, St. Thomas More High School
- Steven M. Vande Zande, Bay View High School
- Cathy Zurawski, Pius XI Catholic High School

Nominees in the “Advanced Career Teacher” category include:

- Kathy Biernat, St. Mary’s Visitation Parish School
- Shalanda M. Driver, Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts
- Hilda M. Garcia, Anna F. Doerfler K-8 School
- Valerie Klika, Whitman Middle School
- Engjellushe Kupi, South Division High School
- Christopher Levas, St. Sebastian School
- Todd Smith, Tenor High School
- Steven M. Vande Zande, Bay View High School

Nominees in the “Early Career Teacher” category include:

- Nathan Conn, Bay View High School
- Rochel Hefel, Whitman Middle School
- Jasmine Jolitz, The Alliance School of Milwaukee
- Misa Sato, Ronald Reagan High School

Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on the 13th, and each winner will receive \$1,000. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. To register for the panel discussion, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stem-engaging-todays-minds-for-tomorrows-possibilities-tickets-27306598772>. To register for the awards celebration, please visit <https://goo.gl/6GbBlh>. Celebrate Teachers & Teaching is sponsored by the Education Deans of Greater Milwaukee, Discovery World and GE Healthcare.

Follow Celebrate Teachers & Teaching on Facebook and Twitter for more information:

[facebook.com/celebrateteachingMKE](https://www.facebook.com/celebrateteachingMKE)

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About the Education Deans of Greater Milwaukee (EDGM): The Education Deans of Greater Milwaukee (EDGM) 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. The organization aims to leverage the assets of all institutions 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. To accomplish this mission, EDGM also seeks to engage others who share our common goals.

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High resolution photos from Celebration of Teaching 2015 are available upon request.