

News Release: Deerfield Run Educator Named 2015 Christa McAuliffe Outstanding Teacher

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For Immediate Release

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UPPER MARLBORO, MD – Takisha Webb, fourth-grade science teacher at Deerfield Run Elementary School in Laurel, was recently selected as recipient of the 2015 Christa McAuliffe Outstanding Teacher Award. Webb was selected for this honor by a committee of her peers from Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS).

"Ms. Webb has demonstrated outstanding instruction and creativity in her classroom," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer for PGCPS. "Her passion for the STEM subjects truly makes her a perfect fit for all that our Christa McAuliffe Award stands for."

The Prince George's County Board of Education and school system administrators will honor Webb during the annual Employee Recognition Dinner on May 28 at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt. In addition, folks can view a plaque with her name displayed in the Board of Education Meeting Room at the Sasscer Administration Building in Upper Marlboro.

Since 2004, Webb has spent her entire career teaching elementary school students at Deerfield Run. She served fifth-graders for four years, sixth-graders for two, and currently serves as fourth-grade level chair teacher. School staff nominated her for the award not only for her effectiveness in the classroom, but also for her dedication to the educational profession and her ability to create exemplary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) curriculum and programs.

"Ms. Webb is deserving of this award because of her superb dedication to the education profession," said principal Mary F. Wall. "Not only is she an excellent classroom teacher, she is also a great instructional leader to her colleagues."

A leader in the STEM field, Webb is her grade-level chair, member of the School Based Management Team (SBMT), and the school's Framework for Teaching Facilitator. She also serves as the STEM Fair Committee Chairperson, hosts STEM workshops four times a year for students and parents to encourage them to complete STEM projects, and coordinates a National Moon Observance Night for families and the community. She has also presented professional development workshops to staff on best practices in implementing technology in the classroom.

Webb is an avid learner who is committed to staying abreast of the latest educational advancements, diversifying her instructional skills, and improving her level of professionalism. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. She went on to earn a master's degree in mathematics education from Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa. In 2009, she earned her Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate in Human Growth and Development.

The Christa McAuliffe Award honors an outstanding educator based on competitive standards of excellence established by other teachers. The award is a tribute to McAuliffe, America's Teacher-In-Space, who was lost in the January 1986 explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger. McAuliffe taught in Prince George's County from 1971 to 1978.

The following teachers joined Webb as nominees for this year's award:

Hanaphia Dimagiba, Cool Spring ES

Nadine Gaujean, Ed.S., Walker Mill MS

Jennifer Palo, Thomas S. Stone ES

Tanisha Wood, Magnolia ES