

For Immediate Release
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November 23, 2009

Excellence in Education Hall of Fame Inductees ***Six Named by School Board of Trustees***

Las Vegas – At the November 17 Clark County School Board of Trustees meeting, CCSD presented six recipients with their induction into the Excellence in Education Hall of Fame. This honor recognizes individuals, departments, organizations and schools for their extraordinary contributions to the district's educational mission. The recipients include:

- Clark County READS, literacy program by The Public Education Foundation
- Dr. Janet Dobry, Principal, Robert Taylor Elementary School
- Dr. Beverly Mathis, Principal, Kermit Booker Elementary School
- Punam Mathur, Vice President, Human Resources, NV Energy
- Diane Reitz, Director, K-12 Literacy, CCSD Curriculum and Professional Development Department
- The School-Community Partnership Program Advisory Council.

"The Clark County School District is fortunate to have the dedication and efforts of these recipients," said Dr. Walt Rulffes, Superintendent. "These six inductees exemplify the highest level of commitment to our mission of teaching and learning."

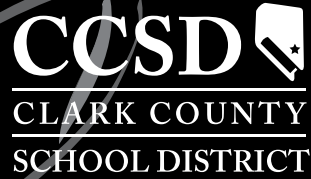
Of the 35 nominations received, six were chosen based on criteria and judged by past Hall of Fame inductees. Criteria include, but are not limited to:

- Extraordinary and lasting contributions to education in CCSD.
- Proven significant impact on the improvement of student achievement.
- Unique and/or innovative approach to education.

Started in 1987, the Board of School Trustees approved the establishment of an Excellence in Education Hall of Fame display. The permanent display is mounted in the Edward A. Greer Education Center (2832 E. Flamingo Ave.). A total of 225 inductees' names are included in the display.

For more information, visit www.ccsd.net.

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Excellence in Education
HALL of FAME

Recognition Ceremony
Tuesday, November 17, 2009



Board of School Trustees

Terri Janison, President

Carolyn Edwards, Vice President

Sheila R. Moulton, Clerk

Chris Garvey, Member

Larry P. Mason, Member

Deanna L. Wright, Member

Linda F. Young, Member

Walt Rulffes, Superintendent

Selection Committee

Chanda Cook

Jeffrey Geihs

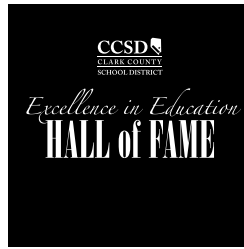
Scott Ginger

Randy Pagel

Dr. Greta Peay

Lisa Primas

Mary Beth Scow



2009 Recipients

The School-Community Partnership Program Advisory Council

Dr. Janet Dobry

Principal, Robert Taylor Elementary School

Clark County READS

Dr. Beverly Mathis

Principal, Kermit Booker Elementary School

Diane Reitz

Director, K-12 Literacy, Curriculum and Professional Development

Punam Mathur



The School-Community Partnership Program Advisory Council

Since 1983, a group of active community members has worked tirelessly to build support for student achievement through effective partnerships between schools and local businesses. This dynamic group of volunteers uses their knowledge and vision to recruit and retain business partners to support and supplement the work of Clark County School District educators and students. Through the School-Community Partnership office, council members seek and secure funding and human resources that complement the curriculum through tutorial programs, scholarships, fine arts programs, and many more. It is important to recognize that the work accomplished over the past 26 years could not have been possible without the Advisory Council leadership, which includes Mark Fine, Bill Martin, Jenny DesVaux Oakes, and Steve Linder—the current chairperson of the School-Community Partnership Advisory Council. Through their knowledge and vision, along with the work of hundreds of volunteers, the program has grown to over 700 partnerships and, last year, received over \$18 million in financial and in-kind donations that support student achievement.

Dr. Janet Dobry

Principal, Robert Taylor Elementary School

Dr. Janet Dobry exemplifies her commitment to education by using extraordinary methods to develop and lead creative opportunities that enhance learning for children. In 1997, the McCaw School of Mines opened under her leadership. This unique field trip destination provides visitors the opportunity to experience the many aspects of mining in a student-friendly, simulated mining environment. When Dr. Dobry moved to Robert Taylor Elementary School in Henderson, she took her vast experience, enthusiasm for learning, and her community contacts with her to one of the most at-risk student populations in the valley. At Taylor Elementary School, Dr. Dobry and her staff built an environment to ensure students have access to new and gently used clothing, after-school snacks, and hygiene products. She was quick to involve parents and the community in reading events to increase literacy, which led to the school winning the Reading is Fundamental Community Challenge in 2005, one of only two schools in the entire country to win this honor. Dr. Dobry devotes many hours working with neighborhood service providers, church leaders, and parents to support community programs. She has secured various grants to pay for staff development opportunities, extend the school day, and provide students with after-school tutoring and learning activities. Taylor Elementary School achieved Adequate Yearly Progress this year and Dr. Dobry earned the admiration her staff and students express for her each day.



Clark County READS

AN INITIATIVE OF THE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Clark County READS, the literacy initiative of the Public Education Foundation, consists of eight literacy programs that support improved literacy in the Clark County School District and the community. Since 2001, Clark County READS has provided quality programs to children and families in southern Nevada. Through the Library Enhancement Program and the support of community partners, nearly 80,000 new non-fiction books worth more than \$1.2 million have been donated to school libraries. The Reading Is Fundamental program has given nearly 500,000 new books to more than 192,000 students. Boot Up for Reading, an after-school book club, has served more than 1,300 students in 65 Clark County schools. Reach Out and Read operates in 13 medical clinics and promotes the importance of reading aloud to children by their parents. The Reading Partner Program has trained more than 1,500 volunteers in over 120 schools. Clark County READS facilitates Toyota Family Literacy, which is located in three schools and seeks to address the needs of families learning English skills. The Book Re-use Program has collected more than 95,000 new and gently used books and distributes these to first-year teachers in the Clark County School District. Ruegy's Readers, a national program and partner that encourages students to read and use the library, has awarded more than \$47,000 to public school libraries.



Dr. Beverly Mathis

**Principal, Kermit Booker
Elementary School**

Dr. Beverly Mathis is one of those rare individuals who has genuinely embraced the vision to help the members of her school community reach their highest potential. Fourteen years ago, when Dr. Mathis became principal of Booker Elementary School, her students were among the lowest-performing groups in the Clark County School District. Expectations and achievements were minimal. Dr. Mathis took the lead and set two simple and straightforward school rules—be kind and work hard. Since that time, there has been steady improvement and many milestones achieved. Students are now regarded as high achievers, despite many personal or family challenges. Teachers have migrated to the school and have embraced educating the predominantly minority student population. Dr. Mathis has mentored several teachers from her staff over the years with many now serving in other CCSD leadership capacities. Community businesses and organizations are involved with the school and support the efforts of staff and students. Best of all, Booker Elementary School students love to come to school and their parents are proud and happy to come and participate in the educational process. In 2008, the academic achievement of Booker Elementary School students was designated as “Exemplary” according to the Adequate Yearly Progress criteria required through the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and that success has continued. After setting the rules to be kind and work hard, all members of the school community have come to accept and respect the meaning Dr. Mathis has brought to their lives. Today, it is a wonderful world at Booker!

Diane Reitz

Director, K-12 Literacy, Curriculum and Professional Development

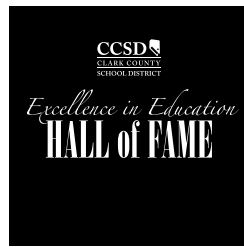
There are those whose achievements are outwardly recognized, and those who work constantly, steadily, and quietly behind the scenes to create long lasting changes. Diane Reitz is the latter. She does not seek recognition, but creates growth and change for the greater good. Mrs. Reitz began her nearly 30-year career as an elementary school teacher. She served the Clark County School District as an assistant principal, principal, and since 2004, she has led as the director of K-12 Literacy. Her leadership of this dynamic group affects thousands of students and staff of the Clark County School District through the professional development and curriculum programs implemented to increase student achievement in reading and writing. She has demonstrated her vision and influence by implementing district-wide programs, such as Voyager Passport Intervention for Second and Third Grade Students, Reading First, Early Reading First, Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills, Response to Instruction, Wiki-Teacher Website, and Adolescent Reading and Adolescent Writing Academies. Many of the programs implemented are a reflection of her commitment to seeking the best expertise from educators at the national level and her desire to promote collaboration with teachers and principals throughout the district. Mrs. Reitz's contributions to the Clark County School District go beyond the scope of her job and increase the development of individuals who ultimately affect the quality of instruction provided to students. Her colleagues and those who have worked with her recognize her as a nurturer, encourager, and a leader who helps others to reach their full potential.



Punam Mathur

Punam Mathur's work touches the lives of children every day. An avid supporter of education, she is a member of the president's advisory task force on diversity at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, co-chair of the Nevada Partnership for Inclusive Education, and is on the board of advisors for Nevada State College, and former member of the Clark County School District School Name Committee. She is an active participant in each of the committees she serves and works tirelessly toward solving complex issues faced by the local community. Ms. Mathur is widely respected and recognized for her work supporting education. She is the chairperson of Nevada Partnership for Inclusive Education—a program that seeks to strengthen public school education that is respectful of and responsive to the many cultures, languages and diverse learning styles of Nevada's children and youth. With strong ties to local businesses, she was instrumental in pulling community leaders together to establish Three Square, a non-profit organization that is now considered the valley's food hub; a central location where donated and rescued food is collected and distributed. Through this organization, hungry students receive packs of non-perishable food for the weekend. Three Square provides meals to over 5,000 students each week. Ms. Mathur's work to solve this complex community issue helps to decrease the number of children in Clark County schools who go hungry on weekends. She is commended for her work in this area and her work supporting and participating in various educational endeavors.





In 1987, the Board of School Trustees approved the establishment of an Excellence in Education Hall of Fame display. This beautiful display, which is now mounted on the walls of the Education Center foyer, is designed to permanently recognize individuals, departments, and schools for their extraordinary contributions to the district's educational endeavors.

Listed are the individuals, schools, and departments recognized for this honor and the year they were inducted.

1989

J. Marlan Walker
William Evans
Richard Pursel
Helen C. Cannon Junior HS
Harvey Dondero
Rancho HS Air Force
JROTC Program
Edward J. Kane
Las Vegas High School
Elton Garrett
Edward A. Greer
Kenny C. Guinn Junior HS
Thurman White
Joan C. Turner
Virgil A. Sestini

1990

Gary BeDunnah
James Schlude
Armida Lopez-Brown
Kay Samolovitch
Sunset High School
Louis J. Silvestri
Karyn K. Durbin
Scott G. Reynolds
Basic HS Marine JROTC
Gary A. Pearson
Cathy Smith

1991

Seigle Diagnostic
Classroom Program
Helping You, Helping Me,
Tutoring Program
Shirley Barber
Variety School for the
Handicapped
Health Occupations Program
Kay Carl
Monte Littell
George Von Tobel
Mr. Vee Wilson
Walter Bracken ES /
Dr. Bernard Hamilton
Valley HS At-Risk Discipline
& Attendance Program

1992

Frank Brusa
Ina L. Dorman
Varsity Quiz
Mervin R. Iverson
Pamela H. Moats
Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas
Lee Diane Gordon
Randy DeLelles

1993

Marshall C. Darnell
Mike Edwards
Alfred Gourrier
John Snyder
School-Community
Partnership Program
Frederic W. Watson
Fenton Tobler
Steven Weiner
Assistance League of Las Vegas

1994

95 PTA Units - Lake Mead Council,
Rainbow Council, &
Sunset Council
Carol Ross
Karen Parker
Frank Lamping
Ellen Ebert
Ms. Elise Ax
PACE (Parents Accelerating
Children's Education)

1995

Judy Cameron
Carroll Johnston
Ray Mitchell
Bobbie Poole
C. Owen Roundy
Pam Salazar
Margaret Wilgar
Edythe Katz Yarchever

1996

City Of The World, Roz Knight
Dorothy Eisenberg
Focus School Project
Geographic Alliance In Nevada
Diane Koutsulis
One Collaborative
Leadership Council
Grant Sawyer MS Technology Dept.
Eva G. Simmons
John Wood

1997

Kermit R. Booker,
Parent/Teacher Village
Jenny DesVaux Oakes
Foreign Language In The
Elementary Schools (FLES)
Stan Fuke
International Studies Program,
Las Vegas Academy
Patricia LaMonica
Marine Corps JROTC, Basic HS
Microcommunity System,
Paradise ES
Gene Nakanishi
Christopher Publow
William E. Snyder
Sunrise Children's Hospital
Foundation
William Clare Tobler

1998

Kirk Kelly Adams
Class Act Live Arts in the Schools
Edna Rose Crane
Sidney J. Franklin
Charlotte Hill
Anthony and Renee Jones
Jacquelyn Moore
Ron Naftal
Operation School Bell
William E. Orr Middle School
Cultural Celebration
Robert C. Smith
Andrew Welch

1999

Robert Bray
Don Curry
District G PAC Team
Louis Harris
Joan Hedrich
Michael Kinnaird
Jack V. Lazzarotto
The PAL Program
Jeri Roberts
Judi K. Steele

2000

Academy for Mathematics,
Science, and Applied
Technology, Clark HS
David Boshko
Leonard DeJoria
Elementary Music Program
General Federation of
Women's Clubs Nevada
Robert Gerye
Scott Ginger
Gordon Hill
LeRoy Hurd
Anthony Lato, Jr.
Peace Week, Mahlon Brown JHS
Greta A. Peay
Preparation and Achievement for
Student Success, Silverado HS
Jim Przybylski
Aldeane Ries

Continued on following page

2001

Cathy Andrews
Jeannette Bautista
Bechtel Nevada Corporation
Bridger Improvement Center
Linda Gregg
Quannah McCall – Jim Bridger
Reading Exchange Program
Louise O'Reilly, Flowers
 at Palo Verde
Diane Orgill
Carol Rumbolz
Frances Saxton
Rodney Smith
Wayne Tanaka
Joan Taylor

2002

Academy of Travel & Tourism
Air Force Junior ROTC
Kimberly Barclay-Drusedum
Boulder City Parks & Recreation
Global Lab
Gina Mason
Virginia Mills
Betty A. Sabo
"Space Station to Marsville"
T.R.A.C.S. Academy

2003

Advanced Technologies Academy
Gary Colbert
Chanda Cook
Susan Corbett
Vicki Lee
McDonald Ranch Literary Guild
Miles for Smiles Dental
 Outreach Program
100 Black Men Of America, Inc.
Mark and Colleen O'Neill
Thomas O'Roarke
Charla Ricketts
Michael Robison
Phyllis Seipel
Cheryl and Mike Souza
Sylvia Tegano

2004

Dixie Bowler
George Breaz
Marjorie Conner
Las Vegas Sun Youth Forum
Louise Helton
"I Have A Dream" Foundation
Rodney Lee
Randy Pagel
Marc Rogers
Positive Impact Program –
St. Rose Dominican Hospitals
Tina Waldron

2005

Susan Berry
Clark HS Academy of Finance
Clark HS Teacher
 Education Academy
Jane Kadoich
Gary Kaempfer
Larry Moses
Yolanda Ramirez
Dode Worsham
Linda E. Young

2006

Joseph Barry
Clark Challenge Program, Clark HS
Vanessa Peterson and Lori Merrell,
 BCHS College & Career Center
Patricia Holland
Junior League of Las Vegas
Kiwanis Club of LV – Varsity Quiz
Wm. McCool Science
 Center, Lamping ES
Jessica Sellers
TeamAction VIP, Valley HS
Martha G. Tittle

2007

Mike Barton
Boulder City HS Boosters
 Executive Board
Maria D. Chavez
Rhonda Glyman
Charlene Green
Marsha Irvin
Richard M. Knoeppel
Lydia Lebovic
Mary Jo Malloy
Ron Montoya
Parents Charging with
 Pride, Clark HS
Ralph Reynolds, UNLV

2008

Advanced Placement Program
 at Clark High School
Dr. Jeffrey Geihs
International Baccalaureate
 Program at Valley High School
Donna Minser
Parents As Academic Leaders
 (PAALS) – East Region
Lisa Primas
Mary Beth Scow
Karyn Wright

