



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2015

Gettysburg Adams Chamber Names Lincoln Elementary Art Teacher Educator of the Year

GETTYSBURG, Pa. – Gina Robertson, art teacher at Lincoln Elementary School in the Gettysburg Area School District, is the Gettysburg Adams Chamber of Commerce 2015 Educator of the Year. The award honors Adams County educators who inspire the love of learning in students of all backgrounds, work with various business and community agencies and play an active role in the community.

Robertson was recognized during the chamber's annual Education Breakfast on May 19 at The Lodges at Gettysburg.

"Gina Robertson is an exceptional artist and educator who inspires the love of learning in her students by sharing a sense of community that extends beyond the walls of her classroom to the world," Gettysburg Adams Chamber of Commerce President Carrie Stuart. "We thank her for her commitment to developing the potential of students and strengthening the community, both locally and in our sister city of León, Nicaragua."

In Robertson's art room, all children achieve success, no matter their ability. She makes a point to connect with every student, from the most troubled to the most talented. She teaches her students that art is not merely an object one makes, but a meaningful human expression that connects people.

Robertson is an integral member of the Gettysburg Sister City Organization Project Gettysburg/León. She has arranged for visiting artists from León, Nicaragua, to work with students and teach them about the primitivista art style common in their country. Students were inspired to create individual art pieces as well as a mural in the primitivista style. They also raised funds to send art supplies and other needed money to León.

Energized by her students' interest in the project, Richardson was part of two delegations to Nicaragua in August 2013 and 2014. As a result of the visits, she and her husband opened their home to an artist in residence and coordinated his stay to pursue higher education at a nearby university.

"Mrs. Robertson continually strives to grow as an artist, educator and human being," said Cathy Harner, Lincoln Elementary principal. "Her humility, fairness and kindness make her classroom a place children feel safe and emerge as enlightened and enthusiastic learners."

"While the student art work is impressive in its own right, those of us that know and respect Gina appreciate all that goes on behind the finished product and understand why she is extremely deserving of this award," added Harner.

Past honorees are Dr. Eric Eshbach, Upper Adams School District former superintendent; Alecia Kraus, New Oxford High School Spanish teacher; Matthew McFarland, Conewago Township Elementary School second grade teacher; Amy Beckman, New Oxford Middle School special education teacher; and Anthony Angelini, New Oxford Middle School social studies and language arts teacher.

The chamber supports the Adams County business community by promoting diverse economic opportunities through advocacy, networking and information. More than 530 local businesses and organizations are members. For more information, visit www.gettysburg-chamber.org.

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