

2020 Excellence in Teaching Award

Christine Strong, Alison Garvey, and Erik Lokensgard have been selected by the Easthampton Public Schools as the 2020 Excellence in Teaching Award Winners. All three of these winners are exceptional educators. Erik has received the new teacher award. He has been working as a Math Teacher at Easthampton High School since 2017. Christine and Alison are two veteran educators who, combined, have almost fifty years of teaching experience in elementary and special education.

Christine, Alison, and Erik will be honored at a banquet for Excellence in Teaching Award Winners at the Log Cabin in Holyoke on April 30, 2020. The program features the presentation of an individual award. Winners will receive an engraved plaque and a check for \$500, with "New Teacher" winners receiving \$250.

Seven area colleges and universities offer graduate course tuition incentives and scholarships: Elms College, Bay Path University, Mount Holyoke College, Springfield College, Western New England University, Westfield State University, and the University of Massachusetts.

Winners also receive membership at WGBY Springfield as well as generous 3-month memberships at the Springfield Jewish Community Center, the Springfield YMCA and five regional YMCAs, and other gifts.

In addition, all 2020 winners are encouraged to apply for the selective Classroom Innovator Prize of \$250 by submitting a project-based learning idea. To provide valuable information about project-based learning, WGBY Springfield and WGBH Boston will offer a webinar for all winners and make available thousands of PBS Learning Media Resources.

The Excellence in Teaching Awards program is made possible by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation in partnership with the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation. Said philanthropist Harold Grinspoon, "It means the world to us recognize and reward the contributions of so many talented educators in the Pioneer Valley." Other business and community support comes from Arrha Credit Union, Country Bank, Meyers Brothers Kalicka, Monson Savings Bank, and American International College.

For further information about the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program, contact Program Coordinator Michelle Roberts (mroberts@hgf.org).