

Back to School 2024

Teaching may be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit.

—John Steinbeck



2015 Touchstones Teacher of the Year

- **J.J. Cromer and Antxon Iturbe** of St. Anne's-Belfield School in Charlottesville, VA;
- **Larry Harris** of Elkton High School in Cecil County, MD;
- **Shanelle Muse** of Learning Community Charter School in Jersey City, NJ;
- **Steve Davidson** of Douglas MacArthur High School in San Antonio, TX;
- **Myke Healy** of Trinity College School in Port Hope, Ontario,

Call for Nominations

Touchstones Teacher of the Year

By Sharon Thomas

Touchstones loves teachers. Dedicating one's professional life to the care and learning of other people's children is something that deserves respect and recognition all year long. Touchstones Teacher of the Year Award is one way that we show gratitude and appreciation for everything that teachers do each day for children and adults.

In 2011, Cynthia M. Barry established the Touchstones Teacher of the Year Award to recognize teacher leadership in schools. This award became the Geoffrey J. Comber Touchstones Teacher of the Year, in honor of Touchstones' co-founder and unfailing champion of teachers, Geoffrey J. Comber, who passed away in 2019.

Past winners of this award include

- **Chelsie Hawkinson and Nathan Slife** of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas in Las Vegas, NV;
- **Keith Eaton** of Mount Desert Island High School in Bar Harbor, ME;
- **Colin Hogan** of Learning Community Charter School in Jersey City, NJ;
- **Suzan Powell** of the Maryland Correctional Institute in Jessup, MD;
- **Rick Vanosdall** of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, TN;

Canada;

- **Garreth Heidt** of Perkiomen Valley Middle School East in Collegeville, PA; and
- **Debbie Wilkins** of Salisbury Elementary School in Salisbury, MD.

The nomination portal is now open to nominate a Touchstones educator whom you feel does great work in developing the essential skills that Touchstones supports: Active Listening, Confidence, Cooperative Learning, Leadership, Analytical Reasoning, Reflective Thinking, Speaking, and Collaboration. To nominate a teacher for this honor, click on the link below.

Nominations are due by September 15, 2024.

The winner of the award will receive a cash prize of \$250 and will travel to Annapolis, Maryland for our annual Teacher of the Year and Volunteer of the Year celebration. If you have any questions about the award or the nomination process, please contact the Touchstones Discussion Project at schoolprograms@touchstones.org.

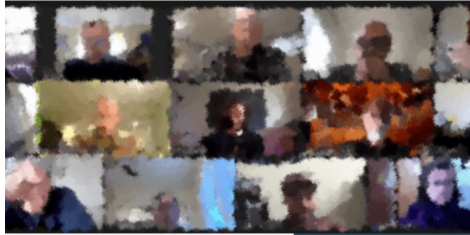


*2016 Touchstones Teacher of the Year
Larry Harris*

[Click here to
nominate!](#)



Open-Enrollment Workshop

Want to learn how Touchstones teaches listening and collaboration skills?



Join us for our
**October
online
workshop!**



 October 19, 2024;
10:00 am to 1:00 pm ET
 Online via Zoom

[Click here to register!](#)



Touchstones Discussion Project | PO Box 2329 | Annapolis, MD 21404 US

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