

Maryland PTA Life Membership Award - Liz Wheeler

Liz has focused her professional and volunteer careers on children, youth and families. She taught for 32 years at the Maryland School for the Deaf and is currently the Arts Outreach Director for Class Acts Arts, a non-profit arts organization she initially contacted while serving in her first PTA volunteer position.



Liz first joined PTA in 1990. She has served on a variety of committees at College Gardens, Julius West and Richard Montgomery, and as a PTA officer multiple times. She and her community mentors and colleagues, founded the Committee for Excellence at Richard Montgomery to advocate for a new Richard Montgomery High School. A cluster coordinator for the Richard Montgomery cluster for four years, and an officer for MCCPTA for four years, she is now PTSA President at Richard Montgomery High School and Vice President Leadership Development for the Maryland PTA.

Liz and her husband, Lew Leinenweber, live in Rockville. Their daughter is a college graduate, two sons are in college and their youngest son begins college in August.

Partnership in Education Award

Carlos A. Scandiffio, President and CEO - Allworld Language Consultants, Inc.

Mr. Scandiffio has sponsored an essay contest since 2005 at Paint Branch High School. The Allworld Language Consultants Award is given to one student in each grade (9th – 12th). The mission statement of the sponsor of this award, Allworld Language Consultants, Inc. is "In today's world there should be no barriers". This award is a celebration of diversity and celebrating our differences.

The contest is a written essay of no more than 500 words. The topic of the essay being: How has being a student at Paint Branch High School helped you to fulfill the Allworld Language Consultants motto. This year the 12th grade winner receives \$1000 and the other winner receive \$500 each.

The spirit of this essay personifies Paint Branch High School – we are very diverse, and the students and staff do celebrate our differences every day. This essay contest gives the students an opportunity to reflect on the non-academic lessons they learn every day, and to put their school experiences into words. These life lessons are as important as the academic studies and will carry the students well into the world beyond Paint Branch High School. As our economy becomes more global, our students need to learn skills for connecting in order to become productive members of society, and this essay contest is one step toward that goal.