



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sterling band director Richard Clem receives Goldin Foundation Excellence in Education Award

At the recent seventh annual Goldin Foundation Educators Forum hosted by Crosby ISD, Richard Clem, Director of Bands for Ross S. Sterling High School, was recognized for "Excellence in Education."

Mr. Clem joined the group of distinguished educators, who since 1991, have been recognized by the Goldin Foundation for Excellence in Education for making outstanding contributions in their classrooms, their schools, and communities. He shared his experiences, projects, and insights with other teachers, administrators, parents, and members of local communities at the regional forum.

"I feel very honored to have been nominated for this award," said Mr. Clem. "I feel every teacher could have won this award, but am glad that Mrs. Goldin and the members of the selection committee saw in me the example they were looking for as a teacher who represented Excellence in Education." Clem said the main focus of what he does can be summed up in three thoughts:

- "First, every child needs to belong somewhere. If they are not going to be in band, then belong to some organization where you can be a part of the "family"! Special needs students should also be a part of our programs. What they do in band is not important, but belonging is important. I do not dwell on what they cannot do; I dwell on finding what they can do! I encourage all students to be the best they can be in whatever they do!"
- "Second, band is a family! I am the dad, I make the rules, and I enforce the rules. Most importantly, I LOVE my students and I insist that they love and care for each other. The band hall is a safe place to be and all are welcome. But when here, I have the same expectations for everyone! Everyone follows the same rules and the consequences are the same for everyone!"
- "And third, know what is important in life! First is God, then your family, and finally Band! Everything else is small stuff! I want my students to leave me loving band, loving school, and caring about each other!"

Mr. Clem is a Master Teacher, who shares his musical talents with zeal. He offers a life of service to his community, his church, his school district, his students, his colleagues, and his family.

He shares his heartfelt music with his community by building a strong music program that represents them with pride. His hard work and efforts have been rewarded with many Sweepstakes ratings in UIL competitions.

He shares his unique talents with his church by serving the needy of the area, working on projects in his local church, and providing his musical talents to the services. He volunteers in the community outreach organizations and with several charities.

In his school district, he shares his song by leading various leadership and curriculum teams, by being a mentor and strong teaching example, and by providing a demanding music program that develops a lifelong appreciation of music.



Richard Clem

He shares his song with children throughout the state, by serving on various committees at the region and state levels and by teaching and sharing techniques to other music professionals at the that music conventions. He shares his musical abilities by composing and arranging music for individual student needs in his band program and with other area symphonic groups as well.

By all accounts, he is a wonderful family man, he is a "Master Teacher" who is well versed in curriculum integration, a team player, an encourager for all people, a negotiator bringing everyone together when difficult decisions are to be made, a respecter of persons who meets the needs of all students, a developer of character, an example of the highest standards, and a friend to all.

The Goldin Foundation for Excellence in Education is a non-profit organization that was established in 1990 to recognize "unsung heroes" in education for their excellence, expertise, and demonstrable achievements in education. Initially, the foundation served thirteen school systems represented by The Education Cooperative (TEC) in metro-west Boston. It has since expanded to include school systems served by the Education Collaborative of Greater Boston (EDCO) and other school districts in California and Texas. The foundation provides six annual awards of \$500 to each group of school systems, to be used at the discretion of the individuals selected.

Excellence in Education awards are given to any persons working directly with students, teachers, or other support staff within the school or community. Awards are decided by an Advisory Board comprised of previous Goldin Foundation award recipients. Central to the Goldin Foundation's process are: the Educators Forum, a time when recipients, nominators, and community members gather together at one of the schools to present and reflect on their projects and experiences inside and outside of the classroom; internal recognition and support that occur within a given school and local community; professional development; and networking with current teachers, college students preparing to be teachers, and industry representatives.

Ultimately, students are the recipients of the instruction and personal connections by outstanding educators. According to Harriet Goldin, president and founder of the organization, "It is the Goldin Foundation's belief that educators play a vital role in society in supporting young people's growth and preparing them to be adaptable, flexible, creative, and responsive to future societal changes. Our goals are to foster the respect for appreciation of educators, seek the retention of outstanding educators, and attract dynamic, intelligent, and creative future educators."

Information about the Goldin Foundation awards for 2012 will be sent to participating schools in October 2011; selection of award winners will be made in February 2012; and the annual Educators Forum will take place in April 2012. For additional information, refer to the website: www.goldinfoundation.org.

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