

2019 & 2020 James McBride Teaching Awards



Laura Bloom

Foundation Academies, Trenton, NJ

“Students carry strong beliefs about who they are and what the study of mathematics is, and what being good at math looks like. Helping students to keep trying in the face of difficulties involves teaching them to think differently about themselves and about math.”

1985 BA, U Penn, 1988 MA, 1992 PhD, UCSD

Math Teacher



Marlene Rice

Cicely Tyson School, E.Orange, NJ

“My biggest challenge is keeping students motivated when the novelty of learning wears off and boredom rears its ugly head. It’s important to switch roles with the student and use music as a template for navigating obstacles in life, much as a coach does in sports.”

1978 BS, 1982 MEd, U.Michigan

Instrumental Music Director



Sean Mulvihill

St.Ignatius Loyola Academy, Baltimore, MD

“This is my first year leading the 2 week retreat, camping & hiking the AT. Planning a program where learning occurs outside the classroom; is one way to combat complacency and protect a treasured tradition.”

2013 BA, Univ.VA, 2019 MA Loyola

English Teacher & Camp Director



Jillian Brown

Foundation Academies, Trenton, NJ

“Many of my students start off in kindergarten speaking very little English. I seek new ways to help my ELL students develop, and connect with their peers.”

2004 BA, 2010 M Ed, Fairfield College

Kindergarten Grade Chair



Sara Cathey

Oyster River HS, Durham, NH

“I face challenges providing support to students who are continuously bombarded by technology, peer pressure, parent, and societal pressure. I try to provide an environment of respect and trust, let kids see my own faults, and questions to help them process theirs.”

1995 BS, Univ.NH, 2003 MA Univ.Alaska

Science Teacher



Mary Miller

Boothbay Region HS, Boothbay Harbor, ME

“The community where I live is growing smaller, a chorus of 45 dwindled to 15. Keeping this program alive in an ocean of budget cuts is precarious at best. When chorus was not offered, students that wanted to sing met me after school and we keep plugging along.”

1992 BA, 1999 MA, Univ Me 2017

Music & History Teacher



Sam Farmer

Jemicy School, Owings Mills, MD

“Establishing the advanced writing program or winning championships can’t compare to protecting the safety and well being of our children during the pandemic.”

2005 BA, Kenyon College

English Dept. Chair



John Petito

Oak Knoll School, Summit, NJ

“I tie my lessons into what is happening today so students can find meaning by studying history, giving them the tools to remain calm during the pandemic.”

2002 BA, Beloit College

History Teacher