DeKalb County Community Foundation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Nominate Outstanding Educators for 2027 Excellence in Education Awards

Sycamore, IL, 9/15/2026 - The DeKalb County Community Foundation, in partnership with the DeKalb County Regional Office of Education, invites students, colleagues, and community members to nominate outstanding education professionals for the 2027 Excellence in Education Awards. Nominations are due by October 31, 2026. Selected recipients will receive a $1,000 award, a plaque, and public recognition at a ceremony in spring 2027. To submit a nomination or learn more, visit dekalbccf.org/eie.

Now in its 28th year, the Excellence in Education Awards recognize teachers, administrators, and support staff who make a meaningful impact in DeKalb County schools. Every public school district and private school in the county is encouraged to nominate individuals in the following categories:

- Pre-K – 5th Grade Teacher
- 6th – 8th Grade Teacher
- 9th – 12th Grade Teacher
- Administration
- Support Staff (including secretaries, aides, custodians, food service workers, bus drivers, and maintenance personnel)

To be eligible, nominees must have at least five years of service in their current school district and plan to continue employment in the upcoming school year. Nominees should also be respected by students, families, and colleagues, and actively involved in voluntary, unpaid community activities. Previous nominees who did not receive the award may be nominated again. Past recipients are not eligible. A list of past recipients is available on the Community Foundation website.

The awards are made possible through the generosity of the late Yvonne Johnson, a retired elementary school teacher from the Sycamore School District. In 1999, Yvonne established the DeKalb County Excellence in Education Award Fund at the Community Foundation.

All submitted nominations are reviewed by the nominee's school district and evaluated by a local selection committee. For more information, contact Community Foundation Grants Director Jolene Willis at 815-748-5383 or j.willis@dekalbccf.org.



Honoring educators who go above and beyond, the Excellence in Education Awards celebrate teachers, administrators, and support staff making a lasting impact in DeKalb County schools.


Award recipients receive a $1,000 award, a plaque, and are honored at a spring ceremony.
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