

Multicultural/Mutiracial council presents awards

Following is the second part of this year's list of Rainbow Recognition Award Honorees:

Carmen Krystyniak, a senior at Mercy High School, is vice-president of her class and a faithful member of the MCMR Council Steering Committee for the past two years. Carmen is also a participant in the Student Diversity Council for Farmington Schools. Also a member of Mercy's Human Relations Council, which helps promote racial unity at Mercy. She spoke at the 1999 Many Faces One Future Diversity Conference and participated in the lighting of the "Unity Candle" Program held outside the Farmington Hills city offices in November '99. During this past summer, Carmen was one of six students to represent Mercy as part of the Argentina Exchange Program.

Pete Mantyla, teaches 6th grade at Warner and coaches various teams at Harrison High School. Pete has worked as a teacher and coach with students between ages of 10-18. He treats every student fairly, equally and promotes teamwork. Students of various ethnic backgrounds make up his classroom and sporting teams. He views all students as having endless potential. Prior to teaching 6th grade at Warner, Pete taught severely handicapped students. He is truly a gifted teacher and mentor and has continued his relationship with many of his former students.

Laura Miner, is the principal at Power Middle School. She is being recognized for her work with social worker, Sue Anker in forming a student panel for diversity. The students on the panel represent different genders, grades, academic prowess, races, religions, ethnicity, social groups, economic backgrounds, interests and experiences. From this central cog, students can "speak out" and start the wheels of equity and equality turning. Laura has made this experience possible.

Cristopher O'Brien, a Language Arts teacher at Harrison High School was one of the first African-American teachers at



Recognize: Members of the Rainbow Recognition Committee: (from left) Richard Niemisto, Patricia Mobley, Suzanne Paul, Irene Kernicky and Helen Habib honor Multicultural/Mutiracial council chairs Jim Hall and Karen Bolsen (both at center).

Harrison. He has handled his role as a minority staff member beautifully. As an African-American teacher, he has used his classroom as a place to teach about the experiences of minorities through discussion and literature. He is involved in a number of activities around the school, including sponsoring the literacy magazine. His involvement encourages the participation of many students who feel comfortable with a risk because he is there.

Tim Russell, a Language Arts teacher at Harrison High School, has made a true commitment to bring all segments of Harrison's student body together. To that end, he developed a group called "RAGE." Although the name implies anger, it is actually an allusion to a Dylan Thomas poem. The group's purpose is to make life at Harrison more meaningful for all students. They have made efforts to unify

the school, including Winter Carnival and casual dance called the "Morp." Tim's work has continued this year as he has guided the students in their planning for the celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday.

Carolyn Sirian-Crane, is a member of the Farmington Hills community and has made a significant contribution to multicultural understanding within our community. Most significantly was her involvement with the Wooddale International Night held April 22, 1999. She demonstrates the embodiment of a person that has absorbed and believes in the value of living in a multicultural, multiracial community. She willingly accepts a tremendous amount of responsibility and always delivers on whatever she has agreed to do.

Holly Stockton, is a student at North Farmington High School and is being honored for

her efforts in advocating multicultural and multiracial understanding in her school environment as well as in the community. Holly demonstrates this attitude through the activities she is involved in, her actions and words. She has an extremely caring nature and has been observed and known as being a person who strives for equality and fairness. She represents her youth group at Leo's Kitchen in Detroit and was involved in helping the immigrants from Albania. She also travels to Appalachia every summer with REACH.

Marya Turner, principal of Lanigan Elementary School, is being honored for the special effort she makes to recognize different ethnic groups. She stresses treating all people with respect regardless of differences and strives to promote self respect and self confidence in every child. She supports the

PTA in organizing a multicultural family night at school, announces weekly core value topics on the PA system stressing respect and has introduced the customs of Kwanzaa to several classes. Marya strives to erase all barriers of race, ethnicity, or religion in the staff and students at Lanigan and treats everyone as a person worthy of respect and full potential.

Margaret Van Ameyde, is a counselor at Harrison High School. She is being recognized for her open-mindedness and acceptance of all students. She attempts not just to understand the cultural differences but to celebrate them. Her work with students, helping out other student groups, and being the advisor for GSA at Harrison has been invaluable. She has also been the advisor to the Gay Straight Alliance and showed true courage in reaching out to an often misunderstood and

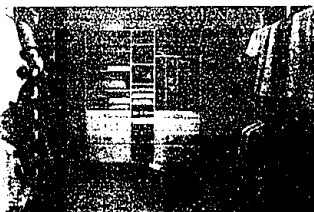
fearful minority group. She displayed excellent judgement in leading the group through some tumultuous times.

Ninooka Wilkie, team teaches the Second/Third Grade Multi-age/Multicultural classroom at Beechview Elementary School. She is sensitive to the educational and emotional needs of all her students. Her classroom includes 13 children who are just beginning to learn English and represent more than six different countries. She is a Fulbright Teacher recipient who traveled to Japan last summer to learn and share more about that culture, helping her students, school and the community to grow. She brings a special understanding to children, as she, herself, is a second language learner.

Margaret "Maggie" Wright, a student at Mercy High School, is being honored for her many accomplishments and dedication to diversity issues within her school and her community. Maggie is a junior class officer of the Human Relations Council and a leader in the Model United Nations. She is an excellent speaker and has been a lead in most of Mercy's theatrical productions. She encourages everyone to go out and do what they dream and never give up. She handles racial prejudice very well and always helps to find a way to resolve it.

Jillian Youssef, is being honored for her work at Longacre Elementary School. She is working to complete her teaching degree at the University of Michigan in Dearborn while working full time at Longacre as a bilingual paraprofessional. Jillian is attending U of M to obtain her teaching certification with a bilingual endorsement. She tutors bilingual children after school and is a member of the MCMR Council. She is always willing and very capable to meet with new parents to make them feel apart of our school community. She is a positive, highly regarded member of the Longacre staff.

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