

Rainbow winners

Bob Maxfield receives a unique MCMR honor

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Bob Maxfield was a guest speaker at an awards ceremony Thursday, but upon closer inspection of the program in front of him, he was surprised to discover the name of one of the award recipients — his.

"I was honored," the Farmington Public Schools superintendent said. "It meant a lot to me. The mix of people is one of the things that attracted me to Farmington."

Due to his efforts in promoting diversity in and out of the Farmington Schools system, Maxfield received a first-ever Leadership Award from the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council.

He received the honor Thursday during the MCMR's seventh annual Rainbow Recognition Awards Breakfast held at the Costick Activities Center.

Karen Bolsen, MCMR chairwoman, said Maxfield was honored for being an exemplary role model for his staff, students, and community at large. Seeing a community with a commitment to diversity is important, Maxfield said.



State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski

into the world feeling better prepared to deal with diversity, he said.

"It gives them a leg up," Maxfield said. "This is what America ought to be. This is the heart of America, what we are about. Every single person can be successful if you want to be."

Upon joining Farmington Public Schools in the early 1980s, he dove into the issues of multiculturalism and has since supported the MCMR's mission and guiding principles, said Bolsen.

She said he pursues the MCMR Council with conviction, serving on the Programming and Incident committees as well as providing leadership to the Steering Committee.

Organizers said the biggest testaments to Maxfield's leadership are the scores of leaders created through the school system, through multiple programs and lessons.

Chair Award

Rana Khalaf was chosen to receive this year's Chair Award due to the courage she displayed in sharing her culture with the community this past fall.

Khalaf is Muslim with children at Hillside Elementary. Along with being an active par-

ent at the school, she answered the community's call in August when planners of the mini-conference on Religious Diversity for Heritage Week asked her to share her perspectives on being a Muslim woman.

The conference was scheduled for Sept. 16. Despite the tragedy of Sept. 11, conference planners assured Khalaf her message was more important than ever. Organizers said she courageously and eloquently spoke at the conference and has since shared her message with the Oakland Literary Council.

In a statement outlining the reasons for her nomination, MCMR co-chairs Bolsen and Jim Hall said, "Khalaf is a humble and courageous contributor to our community who shares her thoughts on Islam unselfishly."

Bolsen noted about 400 people attended the breakfast. The Farmington High School String Folk Ensemble and the Mercysaires provided music.

Bolsen said keynote speaker Alan Amen is a member of same multicultural committee she serves on through Wayne State University. The group, the Multiethnic Experience in Leadership Development, has its members share backgrounds of their



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREIDEN

Honored: Karen Bolsen, left, and Jim Hall, co-chairs of the Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council present the Chair award to Rhana Khalaf.

to develop unity in metro Detroit.

Other Rainbow award winners were:

Marina Abraham, Fadi Abro, John Akouri, Bonnie Ambrose, Suzan Asmar, Jennifer Bailey, Barbara Bennett, Abby Bruckman, Julie Buckberry, Mary Burek, Sumiko Capeling, Dorothy Childrey, Roniesha Copeland, McKenzie Durrie, Shiqpe Dauti, Sue Dayimaya, Emily Drozdowski, Officer Duane Fox, Martha Garnett, Annie Gharibian, Pam Green,

Heather Harrington, Andrea Hawkins, Marsha Hight, Roxana Ho, Lynne Huyek, Gabriella Istanbuly, Sherri Jaffura, Kim Janowski, Dr. Laurie Koffman, Anne Marie Kurzyniec, Carol Lawrence, Tony Leonardo, Linda Letheman, Joan Peterson, Sharon Mackay, Barbara Mikel, Entisar Naimi, Dennis Noe.

Also, Barbara Norsigian, Lauren Okopny, Dr. Karen Oobaniuk, Sallaja Paidipatz, Tim Prince, Cyrene Rantilla, Renny Rath, Mary Joyce Reader, Julie

Redfield, Jeff Rehbine, Officer Daniel Rodriguez, Arnie Rubin, Cadet Hader Saad, Carol Schanney, Lynn Schatzle, Maya Schwyder, Nazik Sesi, Officer Patrick Sidge, Heather Sinawi, Jeremy Singleton, Angie Smith, Jeannette Sowman, Mary Jo Stewart, Carl Swanderski, Doreen Swift, Pam Varilone, Adrian White, Mari Ann Wilkes, Shirley Witgen Carolyn Witte and Suzan Zaznian.

—Staff writer Sue Buck contributed to this report.

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announced interest in a Congressional bid, has a high level of confidence, based on what he believes his opponent hasn't accomplished.

"For the last 24 years, we've heard the same campaign promises, from both Democrats and Republicans," he said. "They seem to have all the answers in an election year."

When the election's over, however, the problems haven't been solved, he said. "If you haven't seen the answers in 24 years, you're not going to see them in the next six."

Raczkowski noted that Michigan only gets back 70 cents for every dollar sent to the federal government, while other states get much more. "What has Carl Levin

done in 24 years? I can't tell you what he's done for Michigan."

One of the biggest problems locally, an aging infrastructure strained beyond capacity, is the target of Raczkowski's proposed "America First" program. It would pool federal dollars to be distributed equally among the states to address sewer and road problems.

"We need someone who will put Michigan first," Raczkowski said. "I'm going to be the Rocky that's in Michigan's corner."

He indicated he would roll out a full agenda as his campaign progresses over the next 10 months and said his positions might not always be aligned with the Republican party.

"We need people in office not who are politicians, but who are going to work for the next generation," he said.

Members of that next generation, from Charles Bridges' 9th grade civics and economics class, cheered in support. Bridges said he brought students down to see the event because they just finished a section in civics dealing with state and local government.

"I'm sure this will give us a chance to talk about the process," he said. "During the course of the election, I'm sure we'll come back to this. (Raczkowski) always does a nice job of coming back to Harrison, and we'll be following him because he's a Harrison grad."

Raczkowski said he will continue to be accessible and work for his constituents during the balance of his term.

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