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## Twenty-three Montgomery County Teachers Receive Awards at 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Voices of Inspiration Celebration

(May 7, 2015, WARMINSTER, PA) – Freedom Credit Union and the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU), along with guest speaker and NBC10 reporter Deanna Durante, recognized exemplary educators in Montgomery County with the Voices of Inspiration Awards for Teaching Excellence, on May 6, 2015 at a special reception and ceremony.

Twenty-three Finalists — one from each of the twenty-one Montgomery County school districts, one from a nonpublic school in the county, and one from the MCIU— were honored at the ceremony, which took place at the MCUI facilities in Norristown, PA. Each of the 23 Finalists was awarded with a commemorative plaque, and a \$500 award was given to three Grand-Prize Winners: Georgine Heibeck (Lower Merion School District), Sandra Fischer (Methacton School District) and Jennifer Granito (Souderton Area School District). Additionally, Queen of Angels Regional Catholic School received a \$500 award for submitting the most nominations of all schools in Montgomery County.

The finalists were selected from over 300 nominations for the Voices of Inspiration Award for Teaching Excellence sponsored by Freedom Credit Union and Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

(MCIU). Montgomery County students, parents, co-workers, administrators, and school employees submitted nominations for exceptional educators in Montgomery County who have shown an extraordinary dedication to young people, while exhibiting the qualities that represent a truly inspirational teacher.

“Freedom is proud to host this worthwhile event to recognize leaders and innovators in education.” said Freedom Credit Union President and CEO, John F. King. “At Freedom we have a long history partnering with educational institutions including the Montgomery County school districts.”

“The MCIU is pleased to continue its partnership with Freedom Credit Union to celebrate the dedication of educators in our schools.” said Dr. John J. George, MCIU Executive Director. Freedom Credit Union is committed to improving communities through financial education, and the Voices of Inspiration program is one important way to honor that commitment.

Over 100 educators, superintendents, family members, and other supporters attended the event to commend the award recipients on their superior commitment to teaching.

The finalists this year include the following individuals:

SCHOOL DISTRICT	NAME OF SCHOOL	FINALIST
Abington School District	McKinley Elementary	Tricia Livingood
Colonial School District	Colonial Elementary	Annie Gubeno
Hatboro-Horsham School District	Crooked Billet Elementary	Elizabeth Traczykiewicz
Lower Merion School District	Bala Cynwyd Middle School	Georgine Heibeck
Lower Moreland Township School District	Murray Avenue School	Diana Sullivan
Methacton School District	Arrowhead Elementary	Sandra Fischer
Montgomery County Intermediate Unit	MCIU 23	Marghee Lutz
Non Public Winner	St. Albert the Great	Barbara DiDonato
Norristown Area School District	Norristown Area High School	Eugene Robbins
North Penn School District	North Penn High School	Steven Henry

Perkiomen Valley School District	South Elementary	Lauren Leister
Pottsgrove School District	Pottsgrove Elementary	Karin Surkosky
Pottstown School District	Franklin Elementary	Jane Hospador
School District of Cheltenham Township	Myers Elementary	Mimi Rubin
School District of Jenkintown	Jenkintown Elementary	Megan Knox
School District of Springfield Township	Springfield Township Middle School	Wendy Hopf
Souderton Area School District	Souderton Area High School	Jennifer Granito
Spring-Ford Area School District	Royersford Elementary	Heather Weise
Upper Dublin School District	Upper Dublin High School	Jamie Fontaine
Upper Merion Area School District	Upper Merion High School	Rebecca McDonnell
Upper Moreland School District	Upper Moreland Middle School	Brian Stahl
Upper Perkiomen School District	Upper Perkiomen Middle School	Mary Wietcha
Wissahickon School District	Wissahickon High School	Diane Brant

### **About Freedom**

Freedom Credit Union, chartered in 1934, is a community-based, full-service financial institution that offers a banking alternative to consumers. Anyone who lives, works, worships, performs volunteer service, or attends school in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties is eligible to use its services. Freedom Credit Union has over \$600 million in assets and more than 60,000 Members, operating branch offices in Abington, Lansdale, Philadelphia and Warminster, Pennsylvania.

### **About the MCIU**

The Montgomery County Intermediate Unit is a regional educational service agency that provides dynamic, visionary leadership, and effective, efficient services for constituent school districts, schools, and students. The MCIU serves 22 public school districts and over 130 nonpublic schools in Montgomery County.



The 2015 Voices of Inspiration Finalists pictured bottom row left to right, Susan Baranowski, Freedom Credit Union, Jennifer Granito, Souderton Area High School, Sandy Fischer, Arrowhead Elementary, Jane Hospador, Franklin Elementary, Diana Sullivan, Murray Avenue School, Annie Gubeno, Colonial Elementary, Megan Knox, Jenkintown Elementary, Dr. John J. George, MCIU Executive Director. Second row left to right, Barbara DiDonato, St. Albert the Great, Diane Brant, Wissahickon High School, Mary Wietcha, Upper Perkiomen Middle School, Third row, left to right, Marghee Lutz, MCIU, Wendy Hopf, Springfield Township Middle School, Lauren Leister, South Elementary, Steven Henry, North Penn High School, Eugene Robbins, Norristown Area High School, *Fourth row, Left to Right* Mimi Rubin, Myers Elementary, Rebecca McDonnell, Upper Merion High School, Elizabeth Traczykiewicz, Crooked Billet Elementary, Brian Stahl, Upper Moreland Middle School, *Fifth row, left to right* Georgine Heibeck, Bala Cynwyd Middle School, Tricia Livingood, McKinley Elementary, Heather Weise, Royersford Elementary, Jamie Fontaine, Upper Dublin High School

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