

For those of you that joined us at our Fall evening faculty meeting, you will remember the Golden Apple Teacher visit with Marshall Bower from the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc. Today, after a very arduous selection process, Jessica Vandenberg of Ida Baker High School was awarded the inaugural Golden Future Scholarship. Jessica has taken part in the Teacher Academy at Ida Baker for the last two years and has also participated in Baker Buddies. Baker Buddies is a program aimed at assisting students with academic and cognitive challenges acclimate to a high school setting. Her principal, Melissa Robery, stated the “selection committee could not have chosen a more perfect candidate to represent the Golden Apple Teacher Academy and the Lee County School District as well as the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc.”

The School of Education at Edison State College is honored to work in concert with the Golden Apple Teacher Academy and The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc present the four year scholarship to Jesssica for the School of Education at Edison State College. It truly exemplifies the work that faculty and staff commit to in preparing future teachers.

I hope that you will join me in congratulating Ms. Vandenburg and in expressing sincere appreciation to the entire cadre of Golden Apple Teachers. Special kudos are due to the 2014 Golden Apple teachers for creating this scholarship opportunity. As our partnership continues to grow with the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc, I would like to recognize Marshall Bower and his entire team for their incredible work in bringing the Golden Future Scholarship to the School of Education at Edison State College. Our partnership with the Lee County School District as well as the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc allows us to prepare outstanding candidates ready to take on the challenges of today’s diverse classrooms.

Additionally, you may have heard that Stephanie Langford, one of our 2014 Edison School of Education graduates, was selected as the 2015 Teacher of the Year for DeSoto County. Mrs. Langford states,

“My journey as a teacher has just begun and has definitely been most rewarding. I am blessed to represent a county who strives to reach the diverse needs of our students on a daily basis. Being selected as the ‘2015 District Teacher of the Year’ will forever be a highlight in my career.”

We are incredibly proud of Stephanie for her remarkable accomplishment.

You may want to watch NBC 2 tonight at 5:00 pm to see the scholarship award. The News-Press will also be covering the Golden Future Scholarship award.

As always, thanks for the tremendous work you do in preparing outstanding future educators!