



Hamilton Excellence in Teaching Awards (HETA)

IEC has created the Hamilton Excellence in Teaching Awards (HETA) to honour exemplary teachers in our community and provide those inspirational teachers with recognition.

The value of recognition awards for exceptional teachers is undisputed. Award and recognition programs are important for improving classroom teaching, teacher satisfaction, and retention of outstanding new teachers, and consequently improved student learning outcomes.

On a personal level, awards have been proven to have tremendous effect on the individual teacher recipient. They exhibit increased self-esteem; they bring a renewed confidence to their classroom; and they are particularly delighted to have their area of expertise spotlighted. Believe it or not, they are inspired to work even harder.

At IEC, we think that an appropriate recognition program for teachers has all of these benefits and more and so we have created HETA. The HETA awards will be given out at the Partnership in Education Breakfast annually to provide open recognition of those teachers whose inspirational approach to education stimulates student learning. Their public presentation gives our community the opportunity to formally thank these hard-working educators.

The Process:

1. Each school is asked to identify their award recipient. This can be done in any way that the principal considers manageable ... either alone or by committee made up of any combination of teachers, administrative staff, students, parents or community.
2. The principal or committee may decide to open nominations to the school community or to simply pick their own recipient. That decision belongs to each individual school.
3. Using the HETA criteria listed below, select an award winner.
4. Once a teacher has been selected, IEC must receive
 - The award winner's name
 - The school they represent

- The nominating principal's contact information
- A picture of the winning teacher
- A short biography/story telling us about his/her exemplary work.

Please note: This information will be made public on our web site; it will be projected during the Partnership in Education Breakfast event; and in the published Breakfast program. You should assume that it is possible that it might also appear in the media... we will give it to them if they ask.

5. The completed information listed in point # 4 must reach IEC by November 1, 2010 at the latest in order to make the printing deadline. **Any school that does not nominate a teacher by November 1, 2010 will be ineligible to receive an award.**

We would be most grateful to get any information before that time.

HETA Criteria:

We are looking for inspirational teachers who have a true understanding of mentorship, defined as the following:

“A mentor is an individual, usually older, always more experienced, who helps and guides another individual's development. This guidance is not done for personal gain.”

We are looking for teachers who:

- Develop a strong and lasting love of learning in their students
- Encourage young people to work to the best of their ability
- Advocate empowerment and resiliency
- Instil critical thinking and creative, innovative problem solving
- Encourage informed judgements
- Care about the future of their students

Please email all nomination info to Yohana Otite at yohana.otite@iechamilton.ca or Mia Wilkinson at mia.wilkinson@iechamilton.ca.

Thank you!