MiT Alumni Recognitions and Awards

**NATE BOWLING, MiT ‘06**, is the 2016 Washington State Teacher of the Year, the 2016 Puget Sound Educational Service District Regional Teacher of the Year, and was a national teacher of the year semi-finalist. In Sept. 2015 he hosted the President of China in his social studies classrooms at Lincoln High School in Tacoma. Known as a demanding but engaging teacher, he values getting “to leave my intellectual and cognitive fingerprints on a hundred kids a year, who will be change agents in the community.” Nate has also received the national Milken Education Award in 2014, our state’s only recipient. Nate is a co-founder and director of government relations for Teachers United, which researches and advocates for excellence in education. www.teachersunitedwa.org

**MICHAELA GILE, MiT ’99**, received The Evergreen State College’s PK-12 Distinguished Educator of the Year Award for 2016 for her exemplary work at Northshore Recovery High School in Beverly, MA. She has worked tirelessly for 10 years teaching English and coordinating curriculum while creating a safe, therapeutic learning environment to meet the diverse needs of adolescents with significant trauma histories who are in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. ”For me there is nothing more meaningful than to help restore their belief in their academic competence and personal power.”

**CINDEL TOBIAS**, **MiT ‘10**, received Evergreen’s 2015 PK-12 Distinguished Educator of the Year Award for her effective math teaching and leadership at Olympia High School in Olympia, WA. Cindel’s principal said she models “a lead-by-example and champion-for-all attitude. She has been a cultural changer in our school.”

**SEAN RILEY, MiT ‘05**, participated in the Seattle Times “Under Our Skin – What do we mean when we talk about race?” video project, the Ignite Education Lab town hall, and published essays on testing and the re-segregation of schools for the Seattle Times and the Stranger in 2016. Currently teaching at Catherine Blaine K-8 School in Seattle, he received Evergreen’s 2014 PK-12 Distinguished Educator of the Year Award for his English teaching at Global Connections H.S. in Sea-Tac.

**Cosette Terry-ITEWASTE, MiT’00**, received her PhD in Linguistics with a focus on Language Revitalization from University of Arizona in 2016. After 12 years working for Native American communities in grades 4-12 and adult education, she will be the Quinault Indian Nation’s first Language Developer and Lead Teacher.

**Jim Anderson, MiT ‘02**, is the 2016 Washington State Forensics Association Coach of the Year. Jim is the new VP at Black Hills H.S.

**Betty Hicks, MiT ‘02**, received an “Outstanding Educator Award” in March 2016 from the Washington State PTA for her work as a second grade teacher at Clear Creek Elementary in Silverdale, WA.

**Nicole Laib Rutledge**, **MiT ’07**, is the Yelm Community Schools Secondary Teacher of the Year for 2016. She teaches Math at Yelm Middle School.

**Theresa Holland-Schmid, MiT ‘93**, is the 2016 Olympic ESD 114 Regional Teacher of the Year. She teaches English and Social Studies in the North Kitsap School District at Kingston High School.

**Wayne Au, Ph.D.**, **MiT ‘96**, received U. of WA Bothell’s 2015 Distinguished Teaching Award. He was a panelist for the documentary “Most Likely to Succeed” (<http://www.mltsfilm.org/>) during the 2016 inauguration activities for Evergreen’s new president George Bridges.

**PAMELIA VALENTINE**, **MiT ‘99**, was selected to partake in the National Art Education Associations’ School for Art Leaders 2016 Learning Community. She was honored as the 2013 ESD 113 Regional Teacher of the Year by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Pamelia teaches Visual Arts at Oakland Bay JHS.

**Kelly Cowgill, MiT ‘15**, is featured in articles on being a new teacher in the Oregon Education Association’s 2015-16 magazines:

“First in Class” – (p. 24) <https://issuu.com/todaysoea/docs/toea_fall2015_final>

“The Toughest Challenge” – (p. 22) <https://issuu.com/todaysoea/docs/toea_winter2016_final>

“An Inextinguishable Force of Optimism” – (p. 30) <https://issuu.com/todaysoea/docs/toea_spring16_v4_web>

**Erin Landvatter**, **MiT ‘00**, received the 2015 Rangveld Kvelstad Teacher of the Year Award for the North Kitsap School District.

**Kasinda Stramer, MiT ’12**, was 2015 Teacher of the Year for Chinook Middle School of North Thurston School District, Lacey, WA.

**Elisabeth Rene (Wakcher) Avent, Mit ’05**, received the 2015 Herbst Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence in the Bay area.

**David Hunter, MiT ‘11**, was awarded the 2015 Outstanding Support for Geographic Education Award from the National Council for Geographic Education for his “Zombie Based Learning” curriculum.

**Nora Hallet, MiT ‘01**, won the 2014 Teacher of the Year by the Washington Association for Language Teaching.

**SUSI O’BRYAN**, **MiT ‘02**, won the 2014 Teacher of the Year at Nisqually Middle School, Lacey, WA.

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**JEREMIAH TUCKETT**, **MiT ‘06**, was named 2014, 2011, and 2010 Teacher of the Year at South Sound High School, Lacey, WA.

**MICHAEL FEKETE**, **MiT ‘11**, won the 2014 Ann Anderson Teacher of the Year Award at St. Mary of the Assumption School in Mentor, OH.

**LAURA “LIZ” FEGLEY**, **MiT ‘10**, won the 2014 new educator of the year award for Woodbridge Senior High School in VA.

**ROB CAHILL**, **MiT ‘08**, won Evergreen’s 2013 PK-12 Distinguished Educator of the Year Award when he taught at Lakes Elementary, Lacey. He now teaches for an international school in Saudi Arabia.

**LAURA HANDY-NIMICK**, **MiT ‘05**, was Bethel School District’s 2014 Teacher of the Year. She started Life’s Handy Work, a foundation to help children from Nepal Orphan’s Home seek a college education.

**TIM HOLMAN**, **MiT ‘99**, won Evergreen’s 2012 K-12 Distinguished High School Educator of the Year. Tim does outstanding work with Dupont Manual High School students in KY.

**KATE (TRAFTON) HUDSON**, **MiT ‘03**, won Evergreen’s 2012 K-12 Distinguished Middle School Educator of the Year. She teaches science at Reeves MS in Olympia, WA.

**JANET O’HALLORAN**, **MiT ‘98**, won Evergreen’s 2012 K-12

Distinguished Elementary Educator of the Year. Janet works with third graders at McKenny Elementary, Olympia, WA.

**CECILY SCHMIDT**, **MiT ‘04**, won Evergreen’s first K-12 Distinguished Educator of the Year in 2011 for her inspired art teaching at Olympia’s Capital High.

**SARAH APPLEGATE**, **MiT ‘92**, received a 2011 Fulbright Award in Teaching to study the education system in Finland.

**ERVANNA LITTLE EAGLE**, **MiT ‘04**, was awarded the 2011 “Indian Educator of the Year” by the Washington State Indian Education Association.

See more at: http://www.evergreen.edu/mit/recognition.htm