



## The 2017 Francis and Elizabeth Neilan Award for Teaching Excellence and Innovation

The Francis and Elizabeth Neilan Award for Teaching Excellence and Innovation recognizes and rewards outstanding and innovative teaching in the Somerset Area Senior High School that promotes educational attainment, enhances student development and achievement of educational goals, and inspires engagement in the community and the world. Founded in 2016, the award is presented by Mary Neilan Stansfield, a graduate of Somerset Area High School, in memory of her parents, Francis and Elizabeth Neilan.

The \$1,000 annual cash award is presented to a current classroom educator.

One half of the award shall be used for the purposes of personal and educational development with the remainder applied to direct educational or classroom support.

### -Criteria-

All nominations for the award will be evaluated on the following equally-weighted criteria:

- **Elevates the Profession of Teaching:** The nominee demonstrates educational excellence through professional expertise, classroom innovation, and commitment to the educational and personal development of their students as life-long learners.
- **Embraces Community Engagement:** The nominee demonstrates external engagement with parents and/or other community members and organizations as an extension of the learning environment.
- **Encourages a Classroom Culture of Diversity and Inclusion:** The nominee provides a learning environment that meets the needs of students of diverse backgrounds and skill levels and encourages a better understanding of the society in which we live. The candidate challenges students to strive higher, explore new areas of learning, and become citizens of the world.

### **-Eligibility-**

The nominee must be in good professional standing and have been a member of the Somerset Area Senior High School Faculty for at least three academic years. Recipients of the award may apply again for consideration after a period of three years.

### **-Nominations-**

Nominations for the award will be accepted beginning January 1, 2017. Completed packets should be submitted to the District's Administrative Office no later than 4:00p.m., March 31, 2017.

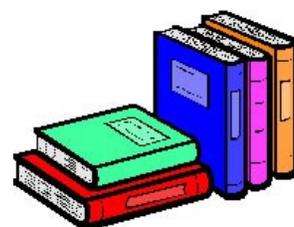
### **-Selection Committee-**

Nominations will be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of the current president of student government, a community leader, the current president of the Somerset Area School Board, a retired high-school educator, and the donor or a designated representative.

Submissions must include a nomination letter, professional resume, and a personal statement written by the nominee reflective of his/her teaching philosophy. The nomination packet may include a total of three letters of recommendation from peers, supervisors, or other individuals familiar with the nominee's professional work.

### **-Notification-**

The 2017 Francis and Elizabeth Neilan Award for Teaching Excellence and Innovation recipient will be notified in early May 2017. The award will be presented during the Somerset Area School District's Annual Awards Ceremony.



## The 2017 Francis and Elizabeth Neilan Award for Teaching Excellence and Innovation

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

First Academic Year on Faculty: \_\_\_\_\_ Curriculum Area : \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominations may be submitted by faculty members, educational peers, students, parents, members of the community, or by self-reference. Please contact the individual you are nominating to collect the following information before the submission of the nomination packet. Please submit all information in the form of Word documents typed in at least 12-point font. All packets must include this cover sheet and the following items:

1. **Letters of Nomination and Endorsement:** A letter explaining why the nominee deserves the award and briefly outlines their qualifications based on the three evaluation criteria. The letter should be a maximum of two-pages, single-spaced and typed in 12-point font. Nominations may be accompanied by one letter of endorsement.
2. **Professional Resume:** A current curriculum vitae that includes an overview of the nominee's professional career, including positions held, educational and other degrees attained, professional honors or awards received, and personal achievements relating to the profession of teaching.
3. **Personal Statement:** Written by the nominee, this statement should include specific examples reflective of the criteria established for this award, as well as a statement about his/her teaching philosophy. The statement also should address how this award will be utilized to enhance educational efforts. The statement should be no longer than three-pages, single-spaced typed 12-point font.



Please direct questions about the award to:

Pamela Tokar-Ickes, Director

Somerset County Community Funds

Community Foundation for the Alleghenies

(814) 525-9020