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SYMANTEC HONORS INNOVATION IN TEACHING WITH $2,500 CASH AWARDS TO HELP EXPAND PROMISING CLASSROOM PROGRAMS

Partnership With Teach For America Recognizes Educators for Innovation, Collaboration, Classroom Results

NEW YORK, June 9, 2014—Symantec and Teach For America today announced the five winners of the annual Symantec Innovation in Teaching Awards. The winning teachers were selected from across the country, based on their successful innovation, collaboration, and measured classroom results.

The following teachers will each receive a $2,500 cash prize, including $1,500 to help them expand the classroom innovations for which they are recognized:

Alissa Changala and Sarah Batizy, social studies and reading teachers at USC Hybrid High School in Los Angeles developed online lessons for students that provide rigorous instruction at each student's pace. The lessons enable classroom flexibility for different learning styles; students can work in groups or individually, at standing desks or in the beanbag nook. Since Changala and Batizy implemented this innovation, their students' reading scores jumped from 12 percent to 70 percent. "We wanted them to understand that every action, no matter how small, impacted both their grade in the class and their future," Batizy said. Watch Changala and Batizy talk more about their innovation.

Angira Sceusi, geometry and computer science teacher at Reagan High School in Houston wanted all of her students to build the technology skills necessary for academic and life success. She developed and implemented a computer-based geometry curriculum, complete with online practice, assessments, and research. Since starting the curriculum, Sceusi's students have outperformed all other geometry classes on campus by 5 to 30 points on every assessment. She also partnered with a local nonprofit, Compudopt, to provide valuable technical training and a refurbished laptop to each of her students. "My favorite is my kids who tell me they're not good at math, then realize they *are* good at math—they just needed some practice," Angria said. Watch a video about Sceusi's classroom innovation.

Emma Ellman-Golan, middle school science teacher at People for People Charter School in Philadelphia sought to integrate technology in her classroom to create more interest and relevance. Faced with limited resources, she took advantage of the technology many of her students brought with them: smartphones. Ellman-Golan created an Instagram account to facilitate learning around the clock. She posts photos of student work, deadline reminders, test-review materials, and highlights activities in her everyday life that connect to

science. The account has helped show her students that science exists outside of their textbooks, developing their enthusiasm for the subject and leading to better test results, increased homework completion, and stronger relationships with her students. "I see my students for about 80 minutes a day," Ellman-Golan said. "That's only 5 percent of a 24-hour day. I use Instagram to connect with them so they can keep up with what we're doing outside of the classroom as well." Watch Ellman-Golan and her students share more about their classroom innovation.

Hardy Farrow, government and economics teacher at Power Center Academy High School in Memphis, Tennessee, created the Let's Innovate Through Education program to empower students to develop their own businesses or nonprofits for their communities. LITE's goal is to inspire students to make their community a place they'll want to live for the rest of their lives while developing their leadership potential. LITE students compete for the chance to present their ideas to the community at a spring gala. Participation in the program helped Hardy's students grow from 5 percent proficient to 75 percent proficient in government in a matter of nine weeks. "[Teaching] should be about the idea that our kids should have this chance to take something that is their own and make it into something they can pursue for the rest of their lives," Farrow said. Watch Farrow and his students share more about their innovations.

Liz Chen, Dale Hammer, and Grayson Cooper, math and science teachers at Northampton County High School in Conway, North Carolina, established the Northampton Summer STEM Program. For four weeks in the summer, students focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) topics, building their abilities to think critically and work as a team. They completed project-based courses in math and science as well as an introductory computer science course in which they developed websites for small local businesses and learned about maintaining professional relationships. In addition to gaining content knowledge, participants reported their attitudes changed favorably towards STEM majors and careers. "Having a growth mindset means you can use experiences that others often view as failures in order to better yourself" said senior Austin Watkins, one of the original participants. This summer, more than 100 students will participate, and the program will expand to include an advanced computer science course, a formal leadership component, and a stronger focus on engineering. Ultimately, Chen, Hammer, and Cooper hope to produce a transferable curriculum so the program can be replicated across Eastern North Carolina. Learn more in this video about the summer program.

"We're thrilled to draw attention to some of the fresh ideas that teachers are creating, often in collaboration with their students, to promote student learning," said Melissa Moritz, Vice President of STEM and Education Initiatives at Teach For America. "We're so thankful to Symantec for their support of our educators, their students, and their communities."

In celebration of innovation in teaching across all grade levels and subjects, the Symantec Innovation in Teaching Awards are open to the more than 21,000 Teach For America corps members and alumni teachers. Educators submitted their innovations via an online application form and video. The five winners were chosen among 10 finalists after a nationwide public voting period.

The awards program is made possible through a grant from the Symantec Foundation, a corporate advised fund at the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

"Symantec believes that in order to create a pipeline of STEM-educated future leaders, educators must approach teaching differently," said Cecily Joseph, vice president of corporate responsibility at Symantec. "Through our Innovation in Teaching Awards, we are

proud to honor teachers who are going above and beyond to inspire their students, beyond the textbook."

Symantec and Teach For America are committed to working toward the day when all students will have access to the educational opportunities that will prepare them for success in college and careers. For nearly 10 years, Symantec has partnered with Teach For America to support teacher innovation, teacher effectiveness, and the recruitment of a diverse group of individuals with math and science expertise into urban and rural schools. Symantec's support also enables Teach For America to foster the leadership of more than 32,000 alumni, among whom teaching remains the most common profession.

About Teach For America
Teach For America works in partnership with communities to expand educational opportunity for children facing the challenges of poverty. Founded in 1990, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding individuals of all academic disciplines to commit two years to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the movement to end educational inequity. Today, 11,000 corps members are teaching in 48 urban and rural regions across the country while 32,000 alumni work across sectors to ensure that all children have access to an excellent education. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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