

Atlantic County Council of Education Associations Friends of Education Award Winners Announced.

John Carlson, Atlantic County Council of Education Associations' (ACCEA) President, recently announced the three people who will be honored at this year's Friends of Education Dinner to be held May 26, 2016 at Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Resort. Nominations were made by members of the ACCEA local associations. This year's honorees include: Former Oakcrest High School teacher Doug Cervi, Dr Robert A. Previtti, Interim Superintendent of Mainland High School, and *Spread the Love Foundation* founders Carolyn and Megan Coburn.

The Atlantic County Council of Educational Associations Friends of Education Celebration is a tribute to our 'Great Public Schools', the students, and the people who work there. This event highlights the accomplishments of Atlantic County public school graduates and honors community members and administrators whose innovative or unique contributions directly support the school system's mission of teaching, learning and excellence in Public Education.

Doug Cervi, a retired teacher from Oakcrest (Greater Egg Harbor Regional), has been instrumental in sharing his knowledge of WW II and the Holocaust with students at Oakcrest, Stockton University and across the state of New Jersey. For over 30 years, he brought in guest speakers from World War II, Korean, Vietnam, and Iraqi Wars, as well as survivors of the Holocaust, to educate students at Oakcrest. Additionally, he created a Veterans Museum at the high school. Over the years, Doug also involved many of his students in charitable causes such as collecting and mailing items to service men and women in Iraq, raising money to purchase gifts for residents of the Veterans Home in Vineland and even delivering these gifts at Christmas. In addition to many service projects, Doug wrote the curriculum for grades 9-12 for Holocaust and Genocide for the state of NJ. He traveled to China where he co-authored the Nanking Massacre curriculum which is used in NJ's high schools. Doug is the co-author of the Bataan Death March curriculum used nationally in high schools and the Holocaust book of David Wisnia's life entitled *One Voice, Two Lives*. Doug is passionate about this subject matter and has shared that enthusiasm with many fellow teachers and students.

Dr. Robert A. Previti was nominated for his lifelong dedication to educating students in Atlantic County. He worked in the Atlantic City Public School system for seventeen years as a teacher, guidance counselor, vice-principal, and assistant superintendent. He then served the Brigantine Public Schools as both a principal and superintendent for sixteen years. Since retiring as superintendent he has served as an Interim Superintendent of Somers Point Schools and Mainland Regional High School. Dr. Previti has also been Board Chairman of Ocean City Home Bank and Ocean Shore Holding Company. He has fostered and maintained outstanding relations with staff, community, municipal personnel, colleagues, and school board members while serving as a public school educational leader.

Spread the Love Foundation was founded by Carolyn and Megan Coburn. *Spread the Love* is a non-profit organization striving to add critical social skills into the curriculum for students in grades K-12 in an attempt to provide a positive, kind and successful future for every student. This curriculum was piloted in Megan Coburn's district at Mt. Ephraim this year. This newly formed foundation has already been very active. They provided meals and gifts at Thanksgiving and Christmas for families in need and collected socks and underwear for teens at the Covenant House. They also participated in the Stockton Suicide Walk. Members include adults and students. During the months of February and March, the group implemented seminars for the public on teen depression, mental illness, suicide prevention and grief and loss. They are currently working on making Buddy Benches for Shaner, Hess, and Davies schools in Hamilton Township. Their biggest undertaking will be a camp for 20 children to promote kindness and positive thinking held at Stockton University this coming summer.

"ACCEA represents more than 7000 educational professionals in Atlantic County", said ACCEA President John Carlson. It is the third consecutive year of the awards celebration.

Those interested in attending this year's Celebration to honor these outstanding Friends of Education can contact acceateach@gmail.com *Subject Line: FOE Celebration.*

Contact Stephen Bouchard:

609-965-6440

sbchrd@comcast.net