

Atlantic County Council of Education Associations Announces their 2018 Friends of Education Winners.

Erland Chau, President of the Atlantic County Council of Education Associations (ACCEA), announced the honorees of the Friends of Education Award, who will be honored on April 13, 2018, at the Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Resort. Nominations were open to anyone from Atlantic County who contributes to the excellent of Public Education. This year's award recipients are: John & Muriel Elliott (HERO Campaign), AtlantiCare Healthy Schools, Chip Donovan (Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools). The Joyce Powell Lifetime Achievement Award, awarded to a NJEA member or former member, will be presented to Patricia Provnick.

Bill & Muriel Elliott, who started the HERO Campaign to prevent drunk driving tragedies by promoting safe & sober driving, have entered our high schools with their message. Reminding students not to let friends drink & drive, they encourage high schools to create clubs or committees focused on getting the HERO Campaign's mission out to students. The campaign in schools is working. The number of alcohol-related driving fatalities decreased by 35% in the state of New Jersey, and 64% in people under 21. By engaging young people in promoting the practice of safe driving, it is not only making our roads safer today, but also working to a safer tomorrow.

Chip Donovan, president of the Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools, has assisted his non-profit charity to provide financial support by helping to address the financial shortfall that over population and cuts in the state aid have created over the years. Focusing on capital projects, academic enhancements, instructional technology and extra curricular activities, the Community Partnership has raised over \$433,000 to support the schools and students in a continuing effort to achieve education excellence among all students in Egg Harbor Township.

AtlantiCare Healthy Schools are committed to healthy lifestyle education beginning at an early age. They work with local schools implementing fitness, nutrition, and wellness, in addition to nutrition lessons, school gardens and support to local families. January 2018, AtlantiCare awarded 60 schools garden and wellness grants, totaling \$51,000 for this school year. AtlantiCare established the Health Schools program in 2005 and is now partnered with 114 schools from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Patricia Provnick, former NJEA President for the Retirees association has dedicated her life to New Jersey's public schools, students, and the advancement of the education profession. Beginning her career as a teacher in Winslow Township in 1967, Pat advanced to leadership roles with her local & county associations, thus becoming President of NJREA for three years. During her career, Pat was an accomplished professional, who has shown leadership, counsel and compassion for her fellow retirees.

