MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Preparing World-Class Students

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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D.

**DATE:** April 24, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Recognition of Maryland's 2011-12 Milken National Educator

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## PURPOSE:

To provide the State Board of Education the opportunity to recognize and congratulate Maryland's 2011-2012 recipient of the Milken National Educator award.

## BACKGROUND:

On November 29, 2011, Dr. Bernard Sadusky, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, and Dr. Jane Foley, Senior Vice President of the Milken Family Foundation announced to a surprised teacher at Gaithersburg Middle School in Montgomery County, that she had been selected as a winner of the prestigious Milken National Educator Award. The announcement took place at an assembly with the entire student body.

Maryland has had a partnership with the Milken Family Foundation for nineteen years, and has successfully identified fifty-six Maryland educators who have won the Milken prize, a non-restricted cash award of $25,000. With this year's honoree, the Milken Foundation will have contributed $1,400,000 to Maryland's Milken National Educators. Each year, the Maryland State Board of Education honors the newly selected teacher.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This year's recipient is **Madeline Hanington,** a seventh grade English teacher at Gaithersburg Middle School in Montgomery County. She will be accompanied by her superintendent, principal, local administrator and family members.

The recipient will be introduced and a brief video will be shown capturing the excitement of the surprise announcement made this past fall. Ms. Hanington will speak briefly about the personal and professional significance of this recognition.

## ACTION:

Our new Milken National Educator will be presented the Milken National Educator crystal obelisk and an MSDE/State Board Citation. Commemorative photos will be taken. State Board members will have an opportunity to congratulate the winner.

Madeline Hanington
7th Grade English Teacher
Gaithersburg Middle School
Montgomery County Public Schools
Gaithersburg, MD

Raised in a New York City housing project by Puerto Rican parents, Madeline Hanington not only was the first of her generation to attend college, but she also worked her entire way through school.

Hanington's students shine under her able tutelage. All 82 ranked proficient on the state test. She taught an academic intervention class for reading and math, with most of the class moving from basic to proficient in those subjects. Fortified by strong practices, leadership skills and achievement results, Hanington turned a school troublemaker into a model learner who later nabbed the Science Student of the Year award.

Using rubrics and exemplar papers to guide performance, Hanington incorporates "Lights, Camera, Literacy!"--a curriculum of Montgomery County Public Schools--to help students write scripts and produce videos that are presented to the community. Co-sponsor of the Junior National Honor Society, she also sponsors the Lunch Bunch book club and the Estrellas club for girls. A fixture in extracurricular activities, she even brought in Chief Justice Sonia Sotomayor to speak to students. And in the spirit of the great bard himself, she had students dress in period costume and perform Shakespearian insults.

Hanington mentors other teachers and shares her lessons across the district. An Achievement Steering Committee member, she assists with planning schoolwide assessments, is team leader of her department, and coordinates resources with other departments. She serves as end-of-year speaker and maintains her own portfolio to meet evaluation standards. Hanington also organized a math and science parent academy and covers classes so her fellow teachers can perform peer visits.