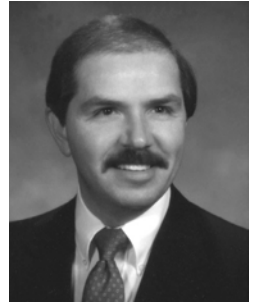


# Rise beyond

## the HoRizon

### *Mel Miller Memorial Award*



Presented by **Interfaith Center for Racial Justice**  
in partnership with **Macomb Intermediate School District**

#### History of the Award

This award was established in memory of long-time Macomb County educator Mel Miller who sought to teach students the highest level of personal involvement in the pursuit of equality for others.

The award is presented by the Interfaith Center for Racial Justice in partnership with Macomb Intermediate School District. It is designed to focus on the important role of education in helping students “rise beyond the horizon” in vision and in action as they become the future citizens of the world.

#### Purpose of the Award

The award honors a teacher for serving as an advocate for social change by bringing to the classroom extraordinary practices that help students understand, analyze and make decisions that promote positive social interactions.

#### Criteria for the Award

Any teacher in a Macomb County K–12 school, who:


1. through personal actions promotes an appreciation for and understanding of diversity within the school culture; and
2. through teaching practices provides students with the tools to
  - recognize and analyze diversity issues (social, cultural, and ethnic)
  - behave in a way that promotes mutual respect, goodwill and understanding
  - make decisions without prejudice

#### Nomination Deadline

**January 5, 2024 4 p.m.**

Return the nomination packet (see included information about packet requirements) to:

Sean McBrady  
MISD  
44001 Garfield Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48038-1100



*...to rise beyond  
the horizon of legions  
of half truth,  
prejudices and  
propaganda.*

— Martin Luther King, Jr., 1947

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## Nomination Support Information

The *Rise Beyond the Horizon Mel Miller Memorial Award* honors a Macomb County K–12 teacher for exemplary classroom practices that encourage mutual respect and understanding, instill an appreciation of diversity, and teach students to act without prejudice. Please provide information in **no more than three (3) typewritten pages in 12-point type single-spaced**, that serve as evidence of practices in each of the following three categories:

- I. Examples of how the teacher actively demonstrates commitment to advancing a “school culture” of mutual respect, understanding and appreciation for the cultural and ethnic diversity in the school.
- II. Examples of how the teacher promotes positive behavior choices such as:
  - a. Recognizing bias;
  - b. analyzing and understanding the situations creating prejudice; and/or
  - c. making decisions free of bias and prejudice for the well-being of all.
- III. Examples of how the teacher fosters a classroom “community” defined by mutual understanding, respect and equal opportunity.

### NOTE

To be considered “award winning,” practices provided as evidence are those that go far beyond general classroom activities and special holiday observances. The selection committee will look for learning experiences that delve into recognizing and eliminating behaviors that support social intolerance and injustice, and give students solid tools to properly evaluate social situations and make choices that strengthen rather than divide our culturally rich population.



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## Nomination Information Sheet

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Nominee Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_


School District \_\_\_\_\_

Building \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Subject \_\_\_\_\_

### **Personal information**

(educational background, number of years teaching, teaching assignments, other education duties or activities, community affiliations and volunteer efforts)



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## Nomination Submission Information

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Nomination Packet Deadline is 4 p.m. January 5, 2024

### Nomination Packet Checklist

***Must include:***

- Nominee Information Sheet
- Nomination Support Information (no more than 3 pages)
- One (1) letter of support from another teacher

***May include:***

- Up to two additional letters of support from colleagues, administrators, parents or students

**Send to:**

Sean McBrady  
Macomb Intermediate School District  
44001 Garfield Rd.  
Clinton Township, MI 48038-1100

**NOTE:**

**No materials will be returned.**

**Questions?**


Contact Sean McBrady via email at [smcbrady@misd.net](mailto:smcbrady@misd.net).



**Interfaith Center  
for Racial Justice**



**Macomb Intermediate  
School District**



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## Nominee Rating Sheet


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Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Final Score (Total of the three scores) \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE TO RATER:** To be considered “award winning,” practices provided as evidence are those that go far beyond general classroom activities and special holiday observations. Look for evidence of learning experiences that delve into recognizing and eliminating behaviors that support social intolerance and injustice and give students solid tools to properly evaluate social situations and make the choices that strengthen rather than divide our culturally rich population.

Based on the information provided in the nomination materials, rate how this nominee meets the criteria for this award in the three focus areas. Examples are provided in each section to help in the evaluation process.



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### Nominee Rating Sheet

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**I. Examples of how the teacher actively demonstrates commitment to advancing a “school culture” of mutual respect, understanding and appreciation for the cultural and ethnic diversity in the school.**

This section rates the teacher as a role model for others. Examples of evidence could include (but not be limited to) actions that show personal commitment to equity by:

- How the teacher interacts with parents from other cultural and ethnic backgrounds
- How the teacher builds rapport with a diverse population of students
- What steps the teacher has taken to gain understanding of other cultures
- How the teacher handles sensitive diversity situations in the workplace
- How the teacher has taken advantage of opportunities to broaden personal horizons on issues of equity, diversity or tolerance

**Rate this nominee:**

Highest										Lowest
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		

**Comments:**

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## Nominee Rating Sheet

- II.** Examples of how the teacher promotes positive behavior choices such as: recognizing bias; analyzing and understanding the situations creating prejudice; and/or, making decisions free of bias and prejudice for the well-being of all.

This section rates how the teacher provides opportunities for students to make and learn from choices. Examples of evidence could include (but not be limited to):

- How the teacher constructs lessons that benefit every student
- How the teacher incorporates lessons and activities that open discussion about equal opportunity
- How the teacher fosters discussion about choices, decision-making and actions influenced by prejudice
- How the teacher helps students recognize and manage situations created by assumptions, bias or prejudice

### Rate this nominee:

Highest  
9      8      7      6      5      4      3      2      1  
Lowest

### Comments:

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## Nominee Rating Sheet

### III. Examples of how the teacher fosters a classroom “community” defined by mutual understanding, respect and equal opportunity.

This section addresses how the teacher cultivates an environment of cooperation and tolerance. Evidence would include (but not be limited to):

- How the teacher sets clearly defined expectations for respectful behavior
- How the teacher ensures all students are given equal opportunity for leadership roles
- How the teacher actively teaches cooperation and listening skills
- How the teacher helps students feel they “belong,” bond as a group, and demonstrate a sense of unity
- How the teacher nurtures student “citizens” who put the good of the group ahead of an individual

#### Rate this nominee:

Highest 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Lowest

#### Comments: