

REF Honorees Announced for 2015

Three great friends of Rochester city students will be honored at our “A Toast to REF – And Our Partners” event October 28.

Jay Piper, principal, The Children’s School of Rochester No. 15, will receive an Educator Award. Mr. Piper has served in the Rochester City School District since 1996. His main area of focus throughout his career has been the education of English language learners. Half of the students in his current school are new American citizens.

Mr. Piper’s focus on international students fits with his background and training. He completed his graduate work at the University of Beijing in China, and also studied at the University of Nanjing. Domestically, he received his Administrative Certificate at The College at Brockport, and studied also at Johns Hopkins University and LeMoyne College.

Cheri’ France, music teacher, The Children’s School of Rochester No. 15, will also receive an Educator Award. Ms. France has taught at The Children’s School for 20 years. In addition to teaching music, she has coordinated many of the schools special activities, including the morning briefings. She is beloved by students and parents alike.

A graduate of SUNY Geneseo, Ms. France performed and was a choral director with the “Up With People” ensemble, and moved on to do graduate work at Nazareth College, and Orff training at the Eastman School of Music.

Harris Corporation-will receive our Business Partner Award. Harris Corporation has been a steady and important support for Rochester city students. The company and its employees here in Rochester have offered support at the STEM High School (now

part of Edison Tech), the new P-Tech School, and Wilson High School. They've provided job shadowing, internships, lab materials and science equipment. Company members also have served on the Industry Advisory Panel at the STEM school. In addition, the Harris Young Professionals have coordinated an Engineering Outreach Program since 2013 at Wilson and Edison/STEM.

Mentoring and job shadowing has been a significant element of Harris' support of city students. For example, 10 students from STEM High School visited Harris three different times to observe engineers, designers and technicians at work. The company also has supported paid internships for high school students. Through all of these endeavors, Harris provides valuable insight into the workplace and professional opportunities.