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NEIU Alums Take Four of Ten Golden Apple Teaching Awards

Chicago – Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) alumni have garnered four of this year's ten Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching. Carol Broos (M.A. '86 Music), Natalie Neris-Guereca (B.A. '02 Elementary Education: Teacher Education), Brooke Tippet Thompson (M.A. '97 Music), and Donnell White (B.A. '02 Elementary Education: Teacher Education) were recently named winners of this distinguished award, which recognizes outstanding teachers in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, and Will counties.

Since 1986, when the award was first presented, over 200 teachers have received Golden Apple Awards. Twenty-seven of the award recipients are graduates of NEIU's College of Education (COE).

NEIU has a strong tradition of educating and training teachers who go on to serve in schools in Chicago and its suburbs. NEIU COE graduates comprise 3,800 educators and administrators in the Chicago area. In a recent survey of teachers who are NEIU COE graduates, 98 percent reported that they felt well prepared for their jobs one year following graduation. Additionally, 90 percent of NEIU COE faculty members remain active in the classroom, both supervising student teachers and presenting workshops.

Carol Broos has been teaching fourth through eighth grade music at Sunset Ridge School in Northfield for 20 years. She encourages creativity and creates an environment for discovery, opportunity and expression. Broos also utilizes theater and technology to teach her students about music.

Natalie Neris-Guereca teaches fifth grade at Pershing West Magnet School on Chicago's South Side. She exhibits empathy for and confidence in her students, which helps them realize their potential to succeed in life.

Brooke Tippet Thompson has been teaching Kindergarten through eighth grade music at the Pierce School of International Studies in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood for the past 10 years. Thompson, a former opera singer, uses music to reinforce lessons in language arts, math and science. In addition to her Golden Apple honor, Thompson holds national certification for teaching music.

Donnell White teaches seventh and eighth grade math at Clark Academic Preparatory Magnet High School on the West Side of Chicago. White carefully considers the teaching methods he uses to accommodate different learning styles in his classroom. He also created an organization called Proud Young Men to help his male students overcome academic apathy.

This year's Golden Apple Award winners will receive a tuition-free spring-term sabbatical at Northwestern University, a personal computer from IBM, \$3,000, and membership into the Golden Apple Academy of Educators.

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