



For Immediate Release: Monday, October 23, 2023

Media Contact: Marisol Ramos-Lopez, 585-455-2844, Marisol.Lopez@rcsdk12.org

Rochester Education Foundation Recognizes Rochester City School District Staff Members at Annual Partnership Awards Event

Who:

Stephanie Bukuru, Student at School of the Arts
Trevor Wiggins, Student at World of Inquiry School No. 58
Crystal Clark, Acting Executive Director of Student Support Services
Dr. Eva Thomas, Principal of Dr. Walter Cooper Academy School No. 10
Natalie Kucko, Anchor/Reporter, WROC-News 8, Emcee

What:

A Toast to REF and Our Partners: Smiles and Opportunities

When:

Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Where:

Harro East Ballroom
155 North Chestnut Street
Rochester, NY 14604

Details:

The Rochester City School District congratulates Acting Executive Director of Student Support Services Crystal Clark and Dr. Walter Cooper Academy School No. 10 Principal Dr. Eva Thomas who will be recognized at the Rochester Education Foundation's (REF's) partnership awards event, A Toast to REF and Our Partners: Smiles and Opportunities, on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at the Harro East Ballroom. They will both receive the Making a Difference in Education Award.

An educator with more than 20 years of experience, Crystal Clark is the Acting Executive Director of Student Support Services. In that role, she collaborates with principals and District leaders to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of student services and supports school management plans and school performance outcomes. A graduate of St. John Fisher University, Ms. Clark has also earned a master's degree in counseling and human development from the University of Rochester.

Dr. Eva Thomas, Principal of Dr. Walter Cooper Academy School No. 10, has served Rochester and the RCSD for over 20 years. Previously the District's Director of Early Childhood Education, Dr. Thomas has held other leadership roles in the District, including Principal of Early Childhood School No. 57, Senior Director for Youth Development and Family Services, Principal of Dr. Charles T. Lunsford School No. 19, and Assistant Principal of Roberto Clemente School No. 8. She embodies and works to build community by the African Proverb: It takes a village to raise a child.

A Toast to REF and Our Partners: Smiles and Opportunities will also include recognition of Trevor Wiggins, who is this year's honorary student chair. He is currently a junior at World of Inquiry School No. 58. Outgoing, caring, and genuine, Trevor loves meeting new people and making allies and connections through his student experiences. Trevor plays several sports, including track, volleyball, bowling, and tennis, and participates in martial arts. In addition to playing the trombone, he is learning piano and trumpet and enjoys studying literature and history.

Stephanie Bukuru, a 9th-grade student at School of the Arts, will perform on the double bass. She has already received a musical instrument award from the Rochester Education Foundation. In recognition of her immense talent and hard work, she was presented with a double bass at the Eastman School of Music. Last school year, as a first-year student at the Eastman Community Music School's Pathways Program, she made great strides, including a solo performance in her middle school orchestra.

Founded in 2005, REF's mission is to provide programs and resources to improve learning and success for all Rochester city public school students through partnerships with educators, businesses, and the community. For more information, visit www.rochestereducation.org

Office of Communications
Rochester City School District
131 West Broad Street
Rochester, NY 14614
585-262-8162

