



# Board of Education Recognitions

April 2025

NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
<b>1</b> <b>Lola Karp-Foster</b> Columbia High School	<p>Congratulations to junior Lola Karp-Foster for being accepted into the highly competitive Secondary Student Training Program (SSTP) at the University of Iowa. This year, the program had an acceptance rate of just 1%, selecting only 35 students from a national and international applicant pool.</p> <p>Lola was matched with the Neuroscience and Pharmacology Lab, where she'll pursue research that aligns with her interest in Neural Engineering. She'll spend the summer engaged in specialized, hands-on research and has also been awarded a 50% scholarship to support her participation. P</p>
<b>2</b> <b>Achieve Foundation</b> Columbia High School	<p>We're proud to announce that nine educators from five schools in the South Orange &amp; Maplewood School District have been selected as recipients of the 2025 Riecke Teaching Fellowship, generously funded by the Achieve Foundation. These fellowships, totaling nearly \$10,500, will support teachers as they engage in professional development programs this summer across the country. The selected programs focus on advancing teaching practices in literacy, diversity, social-emotional learning, and the arts—areas that are central to our district's commitment to equity and excellence.</p> <p>Congratulations to the following SOMSD teachers: Maggie Tuohy, Elana Ris, Emily Mamrak, Ray Mantes, Diane Leick, Amy Rowe, Talaya Hampton, Monica Johnson, and Nicole Thomas.</p>

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<p><b>Filmmaking Students</b> Columbia High School</p>	<p>Congratulations to Columbia High School's film students for earning the "Best in Cinematography" award from Kent Place School—Columbia's first filmmaking award from the school in 15 years. Junior Oliver Penalber directed the winning film Project Weekday, with standout performances by seniors Zachary Barron, Neve Koonyevsky, Theodore Rotberg, Sophia Nautrup Jones, and Adam Jacob.</p> <p>Special recognition also goes to Reese Wolfinger for earning his second award in two years. Kudos to all, and to their teacher, Mr. Paul Marigliano, for guiding and inspiring our young filmmakers.</p>