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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Nominations Open for the Fox Cities Chamber's Second Annual
Excellence in Education Shining Star Awards**

*Virtual awards program will recognize outstanding achievements of Fox Cities
educators*

APPLETON, Wis. (Jan. 12, 2021) – The [Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce](#) is now accepting online nominations for the 2021 Excellence in Education *Shining Star* Awards, which will be presented in a virtual format April 29.

“Last year’s inaugural Shining Star awards were embraced enthusiastically by our community, and we’re so proud to be honoring the Fox Cities’ outstanding educators again in 2021,” said Becky Bartoszek, President and CEO of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce. “Now, more than ever, our educators deserve this recognition for all the sacrifices they have made and commitment they have exhibited through this pandemic. We at the Chamber know how hard this past year has been for teachers, and we hope that presenting these awards will help Fox Cities educators – *all Fox Cities educators* – know how much they are valued. They are nurturing the next generation of leaders who will shape the Fox Cities’ future. They are an absolutely integral part of what we seek to accomplish every day at the Chamber.”

Online nominations are being accepted until Friday, Feb. 26 at <https://tinyurl.com/foxcitiesed>. No late submissions will be accepted. Nominators may only submit one nominee per category, but submissions in multiple categories from a single nominator are welcome.

Full-time K-16 educators in good standing in the Fox Cities region (Outagamie, Calumet, and northern Winnebago counties) who work with students at least 50% of their time are eligible to be nominated. Award recipients will each receive a \$500 unrestricted cash award (except Educator of the Year, who will receive a \$1,000 unrestricted cash award). There will be one award presented in each of the following categories:

- **Excellence in Early Childhood Education**
- **Excellence in K-12 Education**
- **Inclusive Excellence in Education**
- **Excellence in Special Education**
- **Excellence in Student Services**
- **Excellence in Higher Education**
- **Excellence in Career and Technical Education**
- **Presented for 2021 Only: Heroes in COVID-19**
- **Educator of the Year**

Award recipients in eight categories, plus three finalists for Educator of the Year, will be announced prior to April 29. The Educator of the Year will be named during the virtual ceremony. Details about the format of this year's presentation are still being determined. Sponsorship opportunities remain available; for more information about opportunities to partner with the Chamber in presenting these awards virtually, please contact Katie Gaffney at kgaffney@foxcitieschamber.com.

Additional criteria and information for each award can be found on the Fox Cities Chamber website at <http://foxcitieschamber.com/talent/excellence-in-education-awards-fox-cities-chamber>.

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About Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce

The Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce captures the energy of one of Wisconsin's most dynamic regions and transforms it into innovative programs and services for its business members. The Fox Cities Chamber serves all of the Fox Cities communities within the counties of Outagamie, Calumet and the northern portion of Winnebago. The Fox Cities Chamber plays a leadership role in regional economic development efforts in Northeastern Wisconsin. For more information, visit www.foxcitieschamber.com.