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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

iEducate Delaware Honorees announced: Rodel Foundation recognizes education champions

WILMINGTON, DE— The Rodel Foundation of Delaware is excited to announce the 2013 iEducate Delaware™ Honorees. Inspired by and created for the community, iEducate Delaware is an initiative of the Rodel Foundation designed to recognize champions of public education statewide. Five champions were selected to be iEducate Delaware Honorees; each will receive \$2,000 to support their work and will be featured throughout the year to represent the central message of iEducate Delaware—that *everyone* has a critical role to play in educating our state's students.

Fifteen finalists were selected from nominations submitted from all across the state. Nominees included teachers, principals, administrators, and community leaders who work with students of all backgrounds and abilities. The five Honorees were ultimately selected through a period of public voting and guidance from an [external advisory committee](#) of educators and community leaders representing all three counties.

The 2013 iEducate Delaware Honorees are:

- **Tara Amsterdam**, a teacher at Wilbur Elementary School in the Colonial School District, uses a flipped classroom model and technology, delivering instruction to students when they are both at home and at school. She empowers and meets the diverse needs of all her students through personalized learning.
- **Tameca Beckett**, a youth services librarian at Laurel Public Library, brings STEM and the library together through a summer reading program that encourages creation, independence, problem solving and critical thinking.
- **Samuel Heed**, the Senior Historian and Director of Education at the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, empowers students through experiential learning, helping bring local and national history alive through a curriculum that focuses on history, language arts, and economics.
- **Matt Farina**, a teacher at Mount Pleasant Elementary School in the Brandywine School District, creates innovative fitness programs in his school and community. He teaches and promotes 21st century skills, along with grit and perseverance that make successful students and citizens.
- **Jacqueline Lee**, the principal at Gallaher Elementary School in the Christina School District, focuses on a whole-child wellness approach, incorporating physical, mental, emotional supports and a partnership with Nemours to improve student outcomes and increase college and career readiness.

“In its second year, iEducate Delaware is unearthing incredible stories of people who are inspiring young people to learn and explore,” said Paul Herdman, President and CEO of the Rodel Foundation of Delaware. “We are proud to shed some light on a handful of them who are quietly making a difference both inside the classroom and out, with the hope that others will be inspired to do the same.”

Honorees and finalists will be recognized at the Vision 2015 Conference, held on October 9 at Clayton Hall on the University of Delaware's Newark campus. To register, visit www.SmarterConference.com/Vision2015. Profiles of all the nominees are available at www.ieducatedelaware.org.

The mission of the Rodel Foundation of Delaware is to help Delaware build one of the finest systems of public education in the world by 2020.

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