

Have You Heard?

Two Red Clay programs were among the five 2018 Superstar in Education award winners named by the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce and its affiliate The Partnership, Inc. on March 8, 2018.

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Thomas McKean's AVID program, a study and life skills class, and the S3 STEM Summer Scholars summer enrichment program will be honored at a reception and awards ceremony on May 14, 2018 at Wilmington University's Doberstein Admissions Center Auditorium.

For 26 years, Superstars in Education awards have recognized outstanding educational programs that range from single classroom programs to collaborations between classes, or with other schools or community partners. The awards highlight exceptional innovative practices and school to career pathways and show the business community's support for educational excellence and their investment in tomorrow's workforce.

McKean's AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program, coordinated by Brandi Mycoff and Lowell Buford, is designed to close the achievement gap by preparing underrepresented students for college readiness and success in a global society. The program serves as a guiding principal for teaching practices and prepares students for the demands of college and careers post high school.

AVID is available to students in ninth through twelfth grade. Students in AVID practice the WICOR strategies – writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading. They are enrolled in high level classes and given help through tutorials, time management supports and with an organizational binder. In addition, guest speakers, college field trips, tutoring and community service opportunities contribute to students' personal and educational growth. AVID students are given 1:1 assistance through the college application process.

Dr. Mary Theresa Caputo, administrator of AVID said, "The organization, structure, and guidance provided in the AVID Program is invaluable. In addition, the relationships formed in AVID between the students and the AVID teachers provide the much-needed support in the college application process, which accounts for our successful admissions and financial aid amounts. I am so proud of the work that our AVID teachers do preparing our students for college starting with 9th grade and continuing through 12th grade. All of this hard work has culminated in over a million dollars of scholarship monies each of the last two school years. The AVID scholarship monies represents over 50% of McKean's scholarship monies for each of those years."

The S3 STEM Summer Scholars program is a three week summer enrichment program offered to all interested students living or attending school in Red Clay in the years following fourth through eighth grade. This program provides students with the experience of applying the

principles of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) to solving real world problems in a carefully structured environment.

Participating students work with math, science and technology teachers to design, create and test a variety of engineering projects. “Students have the opportunity to try new things in engineering in a low pressure environment,” said Red Clay Supervisor of Science Eddie McGrath. They use research, expository writing and presentation media to convey a scientific argument or solution to a problem. The S3 STEM program motivates and encourages students to participate in more rigorous courses when they enter high school.

Both the AVID and S3 STEM programs are an example of Red Clay’s continuing commitment to excellence in education. These programs are the result of dedicated administrators and staff who strive to provide a challenging and motivating learning environment for all students.

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