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News Release

Commissioner Jones Helps Surprise Teacher with Milken Educator Award

Colorado Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones can keep a secret. It was evident by the look of surprise on Trisha Brennan's face when she was presented today with the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award and a check for \$25,000. A third-grade teacher at Discovery Canyon Campus in Colorado Springs, Brennan and the entire student body gathered for what they thought was a "special student assembly."

In his welcoming address, Commissioner Jones commended the school on ranking among the top in the state. He also thanked the school for their hard work and said, "Even though teachers receive support from their students, administrative offices and communities, they need a little extra support." He went on to introduce Milken Family Foundation Executive Vice President Richard Sandler, who then presented the award to third-grade teacher Trisha Brennan.

Executive Principal Gary Batsell, Academy District 20 Superintendent Mark Hatchell and U.S. Congressman Doug Lamborn also participated in the celebration.

The Milken Family Foundation will be criss-crossing the country in the weeks ahead, honoring up to 80 of the nation's best elementary educators with one of the nation's most prestigious honors during the national notification process. The Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards provide recognition and unrestricted financial awards of \$25,000 each to exceptional elementary and secondary school

teachers, principals and specialists who are furthering excellence in the nation's schools. This year a total of \$2 million in awards will be presented to up to 80 of America's finest educators. Brennan is the only recipient in Colorado this year to receive the award.

New Milken educators will also receive an all-expense paid trip to Los Angeles to participate the Milken National Education Conference focused on solutions to America's pressing challenges in education today.

For more information on the Milken Family Foundation, visit <http://www.mff.org/index.taf>

Photos are available upon request.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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