

Foundation Honors Harrisonburg's Top Teachers

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City Educators Now In Line For Simms Award

By [Jenny Jones](#)

HARRISONBURG - Eight Harrisonburg teachers, one from each of the division's schools, were recognized as Educators of the Year during the fourth annual Harrisonburg Education Foundation Breakfast of Champions on Thursday.

The breakfast was held at the James Madison University Festival Conference and Student Center. City educators, school division staff, community leaders and business professionals were among those in attendance.

Each Educator of the Year is now in the running for the Lucy F. Simms Educator of the Year Award, which is sponsored by the law firm of Wharton, Aldhizer & Weaver PLC.

The Simms award will be presented to one city and one Rockingham County teacher during a ceremony Thursday at Eastern Mennonite University.

Also during the breakfast, Summit Community Bank and HEF honored E. Yager Marks, who taught eighth-grade physical science in the city schools for 33 years, with the Retired Outstanding Teacher Award.

This year's Harrisonburg Educators of the Year are as follows:

n Leigh-Ann Rucker, a special-education teacher at Harrisonburg High School.

n Anne Loso, math coordinator at Skyline Middle School.

n Patrick Werner, a social studies teacher at Thomas Harrison Middle School.

n Barb Sellers, a third-grade teacher at Keister Elementary School.

n Gail Fox, literature coordinator at Smithland Elementary School.

n Kay Grandstaff, a fourth-grade teacher at Spotswood Elementary School.

n Jill Martorana, speech pathologist at Stone Spring Elementary School.

n Sarah Nicklas, kindergarten teacher at Waterman Elementary School.

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