

Wheaton High School Receives C3 School Award of Excellence



Wheaton HS media specialist **Laura Brown** (center) accepts an award from **Davian Pruitt-Mentle**, (left) director of Educational Technology Policy, Research and Outreach in the University of Maryland's College of Education. Wheaton's media assistant **Chongye Ahn** is to Brown's right.

Wheaton High School has won the C3 School Award of Excellence through the hard work of media specialist **Laura Brown**. Brown was recognized for her work in promoting cyberethics, cybersafety and cybersecurity. She was presented with the award at the Cyberethics, Cybersafety, Cybersecurity (C3) Conference at the University of Maryland on Oct. 4. Brown was also a presenter at the conference.

Walt Whitman High School teachers **Russ Rushton** and **Ben Krensky** are taking their teaching experience on the road to the Ukraine. For the past year, Rushton and Krensky have been advising the U.S. International Development Agency (USAID) in Ukraine on the introduction of a financial literacy course for students. In August 2011, they worked with the USAID/Financial Sector Development Project (FINREP) to introduce the concept of financial literacy to Ukrainian officials and educators through presentations on learning objectives, curriculum, teaching methods and resources. They also contributed to the development of a textbook and a workbook for students, which emphasize learning practical skills. The pair have since trained teachers and discussed specific teaching methods to reach and engage students. Their financial literacy course has been approved as an elective in all schools in Ukraine. It will be available to students in the 10th grade. This fall, it is being rolled out to 50 schools. FINREP will continue to support and facilitate the course until full implementation, with Rushton and Krensky as advisers.

MCPS TV was honored with several awards during the annual conference of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA). The awards program honors excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia and electronic programming produced by local government agencies. The top award the TV department received was for Excellence in Educational Institution/District Programming. MCPS also won third place in the promotional video campaign category and third place in the Public Information Series category. The school district has won more than 130 national television awards in the last decade.

Mathy Milling Downing, a first grade teacher at Gaithersburg Elementary School, has been invited to present at the International Society of Ethical Psychology and Psychiatry's annual conference to be held in November in Philadelphia. Her presentation is entitled, "Victim, Survivor or Advocate? The Choice Is Up To You."

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