



28th Annual JEWISH
EDUCATOR
AWARDS *Luncheon*

LUXE SUNSET BOULEVARD HOTEL · LOS ANGELES · NOVEMBER 30, 2017



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*Sponsored by the Milken Family Foundation in cooperation with BJE,
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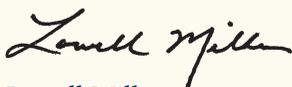
Message from the MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION

Each year, the Jewish Educator Awards remind us of the importance of handing down the values that we share as a faith and as a culture. The decision to send one's sons and daughters to a Jewish day school is an acknowledgement that the goal of a sound education is far more than teaching the next generation math and reading; it is also about teaching them the history and value system upon which our culture is built, about what it means to be a Jew and our responsibilities to repair the world.

During her remarks at last year's JEA Community Luncheon, 2016 honoree Ilana Ribak noted that "parents of Jewish day school children could have chosen a public education. Instead, they chose us," a responsibility she takes to heart daily. Mrs. Ribak makes a sound point, not least because for many, that decision represents considerable sacrifice to achieve the goals implicit in preparing sons and daughters to contribute to a vibrant, meaningful Jewish future. This in turn places a great sense of duty upon those who deliver education that—while it may differ from school to school or from Orthodox to Conservative to Reform to Community perspectives—must maintain high standards of rigor, inspiration and results.

Of course, this responsibility extends beyond parents and educators to all of us fortunate enough to live here in the world's third-largest Jewish community, Greater Los Angeles. If we are truly committed to the goals inherent in combining a secular education with the traditions and tenets of our faith, then it is up to all of us to ensure that high-quality professional learning is the norm, that resources are sufficient, and that teachers have opportunities to develop and flourish.

The four educators whom we honor today—Yehudis Blauner, Adrienne Coffield, Melody Mansfield and Jenny Zacuto—exemplify the intelligence and scholarship, the creativity and compassion vital in guiding new generations to realize their potential and perpetuate their Jewish heritage. Through their important work, these educators preserve the past, elevate the present and uphold the promise of the Jewish people.



Lowell Milken
Chairman and Co-Founder



Richard Sandler
Executive Vice President

Message from

BJE: BUILDERS OF JEWISH EDUCATION

This year's Milken Family Foundation Jewish Educator Awards luncheon takes place just one week after Thanksgiving. As Jewish pilgrims streamed to Jerusalem to give thanks at harvest season for the bounty that they enjoyed, the Pilgrims who arrived in the "New World" expressed gratitude for the harvest they had gathered. Not unlike reference to the Hebrew Bible as an enduring source of inspiration, those anchored in Jewish texts and experiences are able to contribute the wisdom of that legacy to the communities of which they are a part. The capacity to do so is, of course, dependent on Jewish education.

The year 2017 marks 80 years since BJE was initiated by a group of visionaries who wanted to ensure that Jewish learning and experience would be available to successive generations of students. In 1937, there were no Jewish day schools in Los Angeles. Today, 37 BJE-accredited day schools educate nearly 10,000 students, grades K–12; graduates of these schools are well equipped with wisdom, knowledge and skills for the twenty-first century.

That Jewish day schools flourish and provide outstanding, multi-disciplinary educational opportunities owes considerably to two factors: outstanding educational personnel and partners deeply committed to supporting such schools. The educators recognized today with the Milken Family Foundation Jewish Educator Award—Yehudis Blauner, Adrienne Coffield, Melody Mansfield and Jenny Zacuto—represent and reflect the excellence that is at the heart of Jewish day school education. The Milken Family Foundation is an extraordinary field leader in advancing education in Los Angeles and beyond, and its investment in Jewish education has had profound impact.

It is with the greatest thanksgiving that, on behalf of BJE: Builders of Jewish Education, we congratulate this year's award recipients and express appreciation to the Milken Family Foundation for its longstanding dedication to and support of Jewish education.

Sincerely,



Alan M. Spiwak
President



Gil Graff, Ph.D.
Executive Director

JEWISH EDUCATOR AWARDS

The Milken Family Foundation, in partnership with BJE, established the Jewish Educator Awards (JEA) in 1990 as a complement to the Milken Educator Awards. Each fall, four unsuspecting educators in BJE-affiliated schools are surprised before their entire school communities with individual, unrestricted Jewish Educator Awards of \$15,000. Honorees reflect the highest ideals of Jewish and secular education, fostering the lifelong pursuit of knowledge and nurturing a value system that can guide students through adulthood. Recipients also demonstrate an outstanding ability to develop Jewish children's understanding of the connections among their religion, classroom activities and lives outside of school.



GOALS

Outstanding educators who continue to learn are essential to fostering student growth, improving schools and enhancing the education profession. Hence, the goals of the Jewish Educator Awards are:

- » To honor and reward outstanding Jewish day school educators for the quality of their teaching, their professional leadership, their engagement with families and the community, and their potential for even greater contributions to the healthy development of children
- » To increase public support and recognition for Jewish day school educators who make outstanding contributions to the development of their students
- » To increase public awareness of the important role of Jewish day school educators in the community and in society
- » To encourage able, caring and creative people to choose the challenge, service and adventure of education as a career

SELECTION

Award recipients are selected by a committee of educators—both professional and lay leaders from the Jewish community—who have a longstanding concern for and involvement with education in Jewish schools.

To be eligible for consideration, educators must teach a minimum of 15 hours per week at the K-12 level. They must have been teaching for a minimum of seven years in a BJE-affiliated school.

Criteria considered for the selection of Jewish Educator Award recipients include:

- » Exceptional educational talent and promise, as demonstrated by outstanding practices in the classroom, school and community
- » Evidence of originality, dedication and the capacity for leadership and self-direction
- » Commitment to influencing policies that affect children, their families and schools
- » Strong long-range potential for even greater contributions to children, the profession and society
- » Distinguished achievement in developing innovative educational curricula, programs and/or teaching methods
- » An outstanding ability to instill character and self-confidence in students
- » An outstanding ability to develop Jewish children's understanding of the connections among their religion, their classroom activities and their activities beyond the classroom
- » Commitment to professional development and excellence, and the continuing Judaic and/or secular study necessary for it
- » Personal involvement in responding to the needs of the Jewish and secular communities

Criteria for administrators also include an outstanding ability to attract, support and motivate committed education professionals.



YEHUDIS BLAUNER



As the general studies principal at Cheder Menachem, a K–8 school for boys in Los Angeles, Yehudis Blauner oversees the development and implementation of the curriculum, including customized programs for individual students and ongoing collaboration with the Hebrew department. She also heads the hiring and training for Cheder Menachem’s faculty, leading monthly professional development workshops. Mrs. Blauner, who earned a teacher’s certificate from New York’s Beth Rivka Teachers Seminary and a bachelor’s degree in education from Grant Town University, has held her current position for six years.

Mrs. Blauner credits her parents, both renowned educators, for her decision to pursue the profession. Her mother, also a general studies principal at Yeshiva Schools of Pittsburgh, created her school’s first inclusion program for special needs students; her father is an award-winning environmental engineering professor at Carnegie Mellon University. They taught their daughter that education is a way of life, not merely an occupation, and that connecting with students can leave a lasting mark on the world.

Mrs. Blauner holds students to high standards and uses data to guide their instruction. In grade-level curriculum binders, teachers chart standards and benchmarks, visualize curriculum maps and provide assessment outlines and schedules, all tailored to the Cheder’s educational goals and aligned with Common Core Standards. Students use apps like Think Through Math on iPads, work on monthly engineering modules, run experiments for an annual science fair, and delve into cooperative project-based learning in the Katz Corner. The school’s after-school activities include robotics, music and engineering.

As a Jewish educator, Mrs. Blauner has a holistic mission. “Each individual has his own unique gifts and interests, and these can be tapped and nourished to allow each student to grow and learn to his full potential,” she says. “We seek to produce proud Chassidic graduates with a high degree of self-fulfillment, able and willing to be successful contributors to the Jewish community and to society at large.”



ADRIENNE COFFIELD



Technology takes Adrienne Coffield's students at Brawerman Elementary School to extraordinary places. Sixth-graders build robots based on Egyptian and Greek mythology, while fifth-graders build, program and showcase robots made with EV3 Lego sets. Younger students build paper hovercrafts and pasta cars to study motion mechanics, explore tenement life via virtual reality, design buildings, make art with recycled materials and electronic parts, and create stop-motion animation that brings science, art, library and music specialists into the classroom. Students create hundreds of projects each year. Ms. Coffield's goal: igniting students' imagination.

"Anything is possible," she tells them. "Enjoy the ride while making it so."

Ms. Coffield, a teacher for 22 years, has spent a decade as director of academic technology for Brawerman's 265 K-6 students. She earned a bachelor's degree in English and art history from the University of California Santa Cruz and a master's in educational psychology from the University of California Los Angeles. Ms. Coffield took an indirect route to the classroom, working in market research, paperless recordkeeping, retail and translation before embarking on a career in the classroom. Before Brawerman, she served in a similar role at Valley Beth Shalom Day School, creating curricula centered around emerging technologies. She credits her parents, both of whom chose education, with guiding her to teaching: "My mother's patience with young children was inspiring."

In addition to teaching more than a dozen classes per week at Brawerman, Ms. Coffield maintains a large department website, works with legal counsel to create academic technology policies for Brawerman's two campuses, maintains 400+ student accounts on Google and other applications, and oversees the entire academic technology department, including personnel, computer labs, vendors and physical equipment such as robots, hard drives, cameras, headsets, mice and tablets. "I am thankful that I found my dream job when I did," she says. "I've been able to grow with the students, and with the field itself, all of these years."



MELODY MANSFIELD



Melody Mansfield takes joy in helping students learn to express themselves with words. The director of creative writing at Milken Community Schools, Mrs. Mansfield designs and teaches high school courses that study and explore writers and writing. A working writer herself, she delights in bringing new writing techniques and approaches from her own work back to the classroom. “All writing is creative,” she tells her students. “We all begin with the same blank page and must fill it in with our most informed, authentic, empathetic, and imaginative selves.”

Mrs. Mansfield began teaching in 1993, the past two decades at Milken. She holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English from California State University at Northridge and an MFA in fiction writing from Vermont College of Norwich University. Before entering the classroom, Mrs. Mansfield studied ballet and was headed for a career as a professional dancer. Though her passion for reading and writing eventually led her away from dance, teaching ballet taught her a lot about being an effective educator, especially “the importance of celebrating with students each incremental gain...and [how to] empower them with full ownership of their successes and failures.” Joining Milken introduced her to the beauty of Jewish traditions, with their emphasis on honoring the human experience and reading and interpreting texts.

In addition to teaching 10th-grade Honors English, Mrs. Mansfield oversees Milken’s student-owned creative writing program, including a monthly student reading forum, a guest author series, and the Spotlight Storyteller distinction for talented student writers. In her Literary Magazine elective, students learn to solicit, read and select submissions; compose tactful rejection and acceptance letters; design the magazine; work with the publisher; and manage launch publicity. In creative writing workshops, students learn analytical listening and critical thinking skills, but they also get practice in framing their comments with care and tact—a skill they will need for both college and career. They lead class discussions on classic texts like *Macbeth*, driving the content and bearing responsibility for eliciting participation from their peers. In evaluations, many cite these student-led discussions as the most impactful activity of the year. Mrs. Mansfield celebrates her students’ courage as they “share with others that which is buried most deeply in one’s heart...this may be the core of all I do.”



JENNY ZACUTO



Jenny Zacuto puts as much emphasis on learning how to learn as she does reading and writing. The eighth-grade English teacher and Language Arts director at Yavneh Hebrew Academy, a K–8 school, teaches students how their brains process and store information and uses “growth mindset” language. Ms. Zacuto covers their writing with comments, devising rules and strategies for each student that carry over into revisions and future assignments. Her students read consistently, track their own progress, and write reflections on the texts and their own reading habits. Struggling readers call on the strategies Ms. Zacuto has taught them, from reading more slowly to “creating the movie in their minds”; skilled readers look for advanced literary devices such as themes, motifs or irony. This mindset applies beyond school: “They learn that they have the power to magnify their own growth with the choices they make for themselves, even when adults are not watching them,” says Ms. Zacuto.

The child of educators, Ms. Zacuto wasn’t interested in teaching in the classroom and planned on graduate studies in English after earning her bachelor’s degree from Loyola Marymount. A gap year teaching at Yavneh changed her mind, and she earned a master’s degree in educational technology from Columbia Teachers College. “I felt humbled, moved and inspired by children who were far more capable of growth than they, and often others, thought they were,” she says. Ms. Zacuto left Yavneh for a secular school but quickly discovered that she missed the Jewish community and has been at Yavneh for 17 years. “Jewish values fostered the kind of spiritual and respectful community I knew was so important to true growth.”

As part of Yavneh’s General Studies leadership team, Ms. Zacuto develops curriculum and provides professional development. She enjoys helping students become proficient, confident readers and writers; critical thinkers who can analyze ideas and formulate strong arguments; creative minds who use their imaginations; and inspired learners who truly enjoy reading, writing and personal growth. Ms. Zacuto also guides students’ work habits, offering strategies, letting them choose what works, and reinforcing their responsibility to track their own progress. Ms. Zacuto reminds them of the long game: “Making mindful choices, and taking the time and effort to really grow, will not often be fast or easy, but it will result in the kind of true achievement and authentic growth that leads to real, deep happiness.”

PREVIOUS JEA RECIPIENTS

2016

Ilana Ribak

Sinai Akiba Academy

Fruma Ita Schapiro

Ohel Chana High School

Tammy Shpall

de Toledo High School

Rabbi Chaim Trainer

Yeshiva Rav Isacsohn

2015

Jamie Gomer

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

Hanna Keynan

The Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am

Kelly Shepard

Milken Community Schools

Rabbi Levi Solomon

Emek Hebrew Academy

2014

Rabbi Menachem Mendel Greenbaum

Cheder Menachem

Katya Malikov

Shalhevet High School

Ariela Nehemne

Valley Beth Shalom Day School

Barry Schapira

Brawerman Elementary School West of
Wilshire Blvd. Temple

2013

Osnat Bernstein

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

Benny Ferdman

New Community Jewish High School

Mickey Rabinov

Beth Hillel Day School

Deborah Raskin

Or HaChaim Academy

2012

Mary Itri

Stephen S. Wise Temple Elementary School

Rabbi Usher Klein

Mesivta Birkas Yitzchok

Rabbi Baruch Kupfer

Maimonides Academy

Lidia Turner

Saperstein Middle School of
Milken Community High School

2011

Lisa Feldman

Weizmann Day School

Marnie Greenwald

Temple Emanuel Academy Day School

Hava Mirovski

Sinai Akiba Academy

Juli Shanblatt

Bais Yaakov School for Girls

2010

Deborah Cohen

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

Dalia Golan

Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy

Louis Schwerdtfeger

Valley Beth Shalom Day School

Debra Sokolow

Milken Community High School

2009

Shelley Lawrence

Sinai-Akiba Academy

Melanie Berkey

Shalhevet School

Rabbi Mitchel Malkus

The Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am

Rabbi Dov Goldman

Cheder Menachem

2008

Malka Clement

Stephen S. Wise Temple Elementary School

Suri Nowosiolski

Yavneh Hebrew Academy

Debra Schaffer

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

Dena Wolmark

Bais Yaakov School for Girls

2007

Mona Riss

Emek Hebrew Academy

Alan Rosen

Maimonides Academy

Bilha Schechter

Valley Beth Shalom Day School

Lee Tenerowicz

Brawerman Elementary School of Wilshire Blvd. Temple

2006

Bluma Drebin

YULA Girls High School

Rabbi Simcha Frankel

Cheder Menachem

Tamar Rosenfeld

The Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am

Dr. Rennie Wrubel

Milken Community High School

Beverly Yachzel

Beth Hillel Day School

2005

Rabbi Berish Goldenberg

Yeshiva Rav Isacsohn-Torath Emeth Academy

Vivian Levy

Sinai Akiba Academy

Chaya Moldaver

Yavneh Hebrew Academy

Dr. Bruce Powell

New Community Jewish High School

Robin Solomon

Adat Ari El Day School

2004

Eileen Horowitz

Temple Israel of Hollywood Day School

Rick Hepworth

Yeshiva Gedolah of Los Angeles

Rabbi Mordechai Dubin

Maimonides Academy

Pamela Kleinman

Heschel West Day School

Inez Tiger

The Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am

2003

Aliza Dallalzadeh

Temple Emanuel Academy Day School

Rabbi Shlomo Goldberg

Yeshiva Ohr Eliyahu

Shulamith Y. May

Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy

Jan Navah

Stephen S. Wise Temple Elementary School

Tamar Raff

Valley Beth Shalom Day School

2002

Rabbi Gordon Bernat-Kunin

Milken Community High School

Rabbi Avrohom Klyne

Yavneh Hebrew Academy

Marty Uslaner

Kadima Hebrew Academy

Barbara Wirtschafter

Bais Yaakov High School for Girls

Sara Yoseph

Atid Hebrew Academy

2001

Frida Eytan

Sinai Akiba Academy

Carol Goldman

Stephen S. Wise Temple Elementary School

Vered Hopenstand

Shalhevet High School

Rabbi Shmuel Jacobs

Yeshiva Rav Isacsohn-Torath Emeth Academy

Janet Saltzman

Heschel West Day School

2000

Kathy Reynolds

Milken Community High School

Andi Schochet

Maimonides Academy

Rabbi Pesach Wachsman

Emek Hebrew Academy

Elaine Wasserman

Temple Israel of Hollywood Day School

Ginny Zemtseff

Sinai Akiba Academy

1999

Irit Eliyahu

Temple Emanuel Academy Day School

Malca Schwarzmer

Yeshiva Ohr Eliyahu

Bonita Selk

The Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am

Rabbi Aron Tendler

YULA Boys High School

Shawn Watanabe

Milken Community High School

1998

Joan Cohen

Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy

Susan Dubin

Valley Beth Shalom Day School

Deborah Norwood

Stephen S. Wise Temple Elementary School

Rabbi Laurence Scheindlin

Sinai Akiba Academy

Shira Smiles

YULA Girls High School

1997

Tova Baichman-Kass

The Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am

Joseph Hakimi, Ph.D.

Sinai Akiba Academy

Lynn Karz

Yeshiva Ohr Eliyahu

Chaya Shemie

Bais Yaakov of Los Angeles

Mari Siegel

Kadima Hebrew Academy

1996

Rabbi Asher Z. Biron

Valley Torah High School

Ofra Dor

Stephen S. Wise Temple Elementary School

Lana Kideckel Marcus

Adat Ari El Day School

Esther Markel

Emek Hebrew Academy

Lee Shaw

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

1995

Elyse Flier

Milken Community High School

Haim Linder

Adat Ari El Day School

Andrea Silagi

The Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am

Rabbi Avrohom Stulberger

Valley Torah High School

Debbie Wachsman

Emek Hebrew Academy

1994

Esther Bar-Shai

Adat Ari El Day School

Rabbi Avrohom Czapnik

Yeshiva Rav Isacsohn

Valerie Lev

Stephen S. Wise Temple

Elementary School

Adele Rubin

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

Rabbi Dovid Thaler

Ohr Elchonon Chabad

1993

Adina Bender

Valley Beth Shalom Day School

Rochelle Majer Krich

YULA Girls High School

Luisa Latham

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

Rabbi Joseph Schreiber

Emek Hebrew Academy

Suzanne Linden Stein

Sinai Akiba Academy

1992

Janine V. Jacoby ☆

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

Manuel R. Katz

YULA Boys High School

Rabbi Yochanan Stepen

Emek Hebrew Academy

Avishag Wyte ☆

Temple Emanuel Academy Day School

Nili Ziv

Valley Beth Shalom Day School

1991

Dr. Vardina Berdugo

YULA Girls High School

Rabbi Yakov Krause

Yeshiva Rav Isacsohn

Shirley Levine ☆

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

Lily Mattes

Kadima Hebrew Academy

Barrie Richter

Adat Ari El Day School

1990

Metuka Benjamin

Stephen S. Wise Temple Schools

Roxie Esterle

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

Rabbi Menachem Gottesman ☆

Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy

Rabbi Nachman Mandel ☆

Yeshiva Rav Isacsohn

Rivka Shaked

Sinai Akiba Academy

☆ of blessed memory



ADVANCING A MISSION IN EDUCATION SINCE 1982



**MILKEN FAMILY
FOUNDATION**

Leading Advances in Education
Since 1982

Founded by Lowell and Michael Milken in 1982, the Milken Family Foundation strives to discover and advance inventive, effective ways of helping people help themselves and those around them lead productive and satisfying lives. The means



“ Education is at the heart of nearly everything we value as individuals, as citizens and as productive human beings. ”

most conducive to achieving these goals is through education.

The belief that young people are not only our greatest *natural* resource, but our greatest *national* resource has been the guiding philosophy behind our groundbreaking education reform initiatives. Whether founding the nation’s preeminent teacher recognition program, promoting excellence through academic achievement, preserving and expanding a cultural legacy or pioneering the nation’s most successful comprehensive education reform system, MFF continues to champion strategies that elevate education in America and around the world.

Our initiatives:

- » Strengthen the profession by recognizing and rewarding outstanding educators, and by expanding their professional leadership and policy influence.
- » Attract, develop, motivate and retain the best talent for the teaching profession.
- » Stimulate creativity and productivity among people of all ages through programs that encourage learning as a lifelong process.

— Lowell Milken
Chairman and Co-Founder
Milken Family Foundation

MILKEN ARCHIVE OF JEWISH MUSIC: THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE



The *Chicago Tribune* hailed the Milken Archive of Jewish Music as “the most comprehensive documentation, ever, of music reflecting Jewish life and culture in America.... The Milken Archive will realize something that has been a dream of scholars and musicians practically since the dawn of recorded sound.” Launched by Lowell Milken in 1990, this vast “virtual museum” features music, videos, oral histories, photos and essays. The Milken Archive preserves Jewish heritage even as it reveals the universality of the Jewish experience to people of all faiths and cultures.

“In sharing the Milken Archive’s diverse repertoire, scholarship and multimedia resources, we seek to broaden public awareness for the various forms of Jewish musical expression that have contributed significantly to American Jewish cultural identity and to the music world in general. In the process, we also hope to encourage present and future composers and performers to express Jewish themes in their music.”

— Lowell Milken
Founder





MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARDS

Celebrating its 30th anniversary, the Milken Educator Awards provide public recognition and individual financial rewards to K–12 teachers, principals and specialists who are furthering excellence in education. Hailed by *Teacher Magazine* as the “Oscars of teaching,” recipients are heralded in early to mid-career for what they have achieved and for the promise of what they will accomplish in the future. Each honoree joins the Milken Educator Network, a group of distinguished professionals whose expertise serves as a valuable resource to fellow educators, legislators, school boards and others shaping the future of education.

“The Milken Family Foundation seeks you out to let you know that every day your choices are affecting the human capital in the world. To have that acknowledgment not only validates what we do, but it takes us away from a career and moves us into a profession. It restores the nobility of teaching.”

— **Nader Twal**
California Milken Educator



MILKEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

More than 800 students benefit from a college preparatory education designed to develop them intellectually, spiritually, artistically and physically at Milken Community Schools (MCS), a Jewish day school nationally respected for its rigorous curriculum. The new Guerin Family Institute for Advanced Sciences, together with the Mitchell Academy of Advanced Science and Technology, offer a world-class STEM education. Other unique programs include the Architecture + Design Institute, offering college-level training; the Beit Midrash Fellowship, focusing on Jewish values and texts; and the Tiferet Israel Fellowship, forging a lifelong bond with Israel.

“If students think they can do something, it is our job to help them achieve their dreams.”

— **Roger Kassebaum**
*Director, Guerin Family Institute
for Advanced Sciences,
Milken Community Schools*



MILKEN SCHOLARS

Milken Scholars were founded by Mike and Lori Milken in 1989 to honor exceptional young men and women who have demonstrated the potential to make a profound difference in the world. While high school seniors, scholars are chosen on the basis of academic performance, school and community service, leadership and evidence of having overcome personal and social obstacles. Milken Scholars receive financial assistance during their undergraduate careers, but what makes the program truly unique is the vast array of other resources provided to recipients. Being a Milken Scholar means joining an extended family and building relationships with fellow Scholars and staff who provide a strong support system that lasts over time.

“Whether they become doctors, research scientists, educators, entrepreneurs or diplomats, the common denominator of Milken Scholars is a genuine sense of service.”

— **Mike Milken**

Co-Founder, Milken Family Foundation



MIKE'S MATH CLUB

Learning that appeals to a sense of discovery captures children's interest and imagination. Mike's Math Club, a curriculum enrichment program, shows students in inner-city elementary schools that math is not only useful, but entertaining. Students learn “secret codes” and “handy hints” that promote math skills while they play math games and gain a sense of self-worth. Learning with the Mike's Math Club team is important proof to students that learning can be its own reward.

“My mother said it was going to take a miracle to make me interested in math, but now she likes how I come home confident about my math homework.”

— **Fifth-grade student**

Birdielee V. Bright Elementary School

LOWELL MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION INITIATIVES

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH INNOVATION AND EDUCATION

The Lowell Milken Family Foundation (LMFF) is based on a core belief that education endures as the best means for cultivating human capital by developing the skills, knowledge and experiences to prepare people for rewarding and productive lives. Yet, education can have this power only if it is delivered and received as part of a rigorous experience. LMFF's efforts are focused on groundbreaking, comprehensive initiatives that provide powerful opportunities for students, faculty and the community at large.



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Educator excellence ... Student achievement ... Opportunities for all

Recognizing that an effective teacher is the most important school-based factor in improving student achievement, Lowell Milken founded the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) with a commitment to ensuring a highly skilled, strongly motivated and competitively compensated teacher for every classroom in America. Partnering with state education agencies, universities and school districts, NIET offers service, support and solutions in educator leadership, professional development, evaluation and performance-based compensation. More than 250,000 educators and 2.5 million U.S. students are impacted by NIET's initiatives, including the Educator Effectiveness Best Practices Center and TAP: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement.

“Every young person deserves the high-quality educational experience that only a talented teacher can provide. What’s more, our nation’s future strength is directly linked to the effectiveness of our educators.”

— **Lowell Milken**

Founder and Chairman, National Institute for Excellence in Teaching



HOFFMITZ MILKEN CENTER FOR TYPOGRAPHY

Created by Lowell Milken to advance the research, teaching and understanding of letterform design, the Hoffmitz Milken Center for Typography (HMCT) at ArtCenter College of Design is setting global standards of excellence as an influential force in the field of visual language. HMCT honors the legacy of Leah Hoffmitz Milken, a letterform expert specializing in the creation of unique logotypes and typefaces and a legendary professor for two decades.

“Leah gave us the gift of knowing language, of seeing the visual word, in its most precise and exacting form. As we explore the mission of the Center to set the global standard of excellence in typography and design education, let us do so in the spirit of Leah’s voice continuing to sound, to be made visual, to shout her brilliance, to whisper her profound wisdom, to make real both her scientific precision and the poetry of her imagination.”

— **Lorne M. Buchman**

President, ArtCenter College of Design



LOWELL MILKEN FUND FOR AMERICAN JEWISH MUSIC

The new Lowell Milken Fund for American Jewish Music at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music will build upon the historic work of the Milken Archive with unprecedented university-level support for Jewish music research, scholarship and programs at undergraduate, graduate and faculty levels, while presenting concerts and symposia to engage and educate the broader community. The LM Fund for American Jewish Music is an initiative of the Lowell Milken Family Foundation.

“Our goal is to advance cutting-edge research, artistic creativity and interdisciplinary collaboration. The Milken Archive is a living project and the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music is uniquely positioned to further both our mission and our impact on current and future generations.”

— **Lowell Milken**
Founder



LOWELL MILKEN INSTITUTE FOR BUSINESS LAW AND POLICY AT UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW

By setting new standards in business law education, the Lowell Milken Institute for Business Law and Policy prepares students for outstanding careers and leadership in the practice of law as well as business, government and philanthropy. Established by the UCLA School of Law and with Lowell Milken, the Institute serves as a dynamic hub of research and strategy for practitioners, scholars and experts across a variety of disciplines. Conferences and scholarly events promotes solutions to some of the nation’s

most pressing challenges. The Institute treats law as an integral part of an entrepreneurial economy. This is exemplified by the Lowell Milken Institute-Sandler Prize for New Entrepreneurs—a cross-disciplinary business plan competition offering \$100,000 in prizes, the most offered to students in any discipline at UCLA.

“In establishing the Lowell Milken Institute and imbuing it with a vibrant spirit of entrepreneurship and discovery, Lowell Milken has given us the ability to multiply our successes exponentially.”

— **Rachel Moran**
Dean Emerita, UCLA School of Law



LOWELL MILKEN CENTER FOR UNSUNG HEROES

Discover ... Create ... Change

The Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes (LMC) discovers, develops and communicates the stories of Unsung Heroes who have made a profound and positive impact on the course of history. Through a unique project-based learning approach, LMC works with students and educators across diverse academic disciplines to develop history projects that highlight role models who demonstrate courage, compassion and respect. LMC's international student competitions offer \$37,500 in prizes and include The ArtEffect Project and Discovery Award. Established by Lowell Milken in 2007, LMC has a global footprint impacting more than one million students across all 50 states and around the world. The Lowell Milken Hall of Unsung Heroes, opened in 2016, is a state-of-the-art museum and research hub based at LMC's Fort Scott, Kansas headquarters.

“Real heroes tower and guide. They are the North Star that today’s youth can look up to. But their stories need to be discovered and heard. And when we do, we have the opportunity to motivate new generations to aspire to values that are essential during the challenging times we face individually, as a nation and as a world community.”

— Lowell Milken
Founder

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