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Acalanes English Teacher Wins Prestigious Award

By Cathy Tyson



Natalie Moore Photo Cathy Tyson

Acalanes English teacher Natalie Moore was humbled to receive an official Proclamation from the mayor and City Council Oct. 28 as one of the winners of the 2013 Warren Eukel Teacher Trust Award. The award is given out annually to three outstanding nominated teachers, to foster excellence in education; it also comes with a \$10,000 grant with no strings attached.

Moore graciously reflected that she was surprised and grateful and her students are "completely thrilled. It's a wonderful thing to be recognized for doing a job you love so much."

City manager Steven Falk, whose two children are graduates of Acalanes and were taught by Moore, said, "She's an inspiration."

She's been teaching for 14 years, seven of those at Acalanes, and was nominated by a group of students she taught last spring who raved about her philosophy of focusing on the art of critical thinking and her dedication to her students.

Moore was selected from over 40 teachers nominated this year in Contra Costa County.

If teaching a total of four English classes isn't enough, she also mentors another beginning teacher and is a Common Core Coach along, of course, with an off campus

life that includes husband and fellow Acalanes teacher Ed Meehan and their 5-year-old son.

She says she asks a lot of her students and sets "high expectations; they rise to meet them," adding, "I just love my students and love being part of their lives."

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