

**For Immediate Release**

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Barry Wood to Receive WCCF Dr. Howard Jack Educator Award

The Washington County Community Foundation is pleased to announce that Barry N. Wood will receive its inaugural Dr. Howard Jack Outstanding Educator Award, given to “a local public educator who has displayed the ability to inspire children from all backgrounds and abilities, who has earned the respect of colleagues, students and parents, and who is actively engaged in the community.” The award is named in honor of Dr. Howard Jack, a Founding Trustee of the WCCF and past Chairman, who retired as Superintendent of Peters Township High School after a long and distinguished career in education.



*Barry Wood*

The credentials and accolades for Wood, the 38-year veteran English and Theater teacher at Peters Township High School (PTHS), read like a manual for aspiring teachers. Named to the Teacher Excellence Center’s Hall of Fame in Pittsburgh, Wood was also a nominee for the Disney Teacher Award and was invited to the American High School Festival in Scotland. He established Thespian Troupe No. 185 and the Peters Dance Company, and his theater program is widely recognized as one of the best in the state. Many of his former students have found careers in the performing arts.

Wood was hired by Jack 38 years ago.

“I am elated to be the first teacher to receive this distinguished award especially since it was Dr. Jack who hired me to teach and direct at Peters Township High School. He was--and continues to be--an inspiration to me,” says Wood.

Fellow teachers, administrators, a school board member, parents, and students all supported his nomination. Student Benjamin West writes, “Mr. Wood... recognizes and brings out talents in us we did not know were present.” Fellow teacher Donna Fox praises his work, saying, “Barry fills the students’ need to communicate, collaborate and innovate.” Fellow teachers praise his “outstanding moral integrity”, call him an “outstanding role model”, explain “Barry has reached children when no one else can.” and “He has the gift of being able to motivate and excite students of all ability levels and social and psychological backgrounds.”

Two other outstanding local educators, Anne Marie McDonald, Washington School District, and Renee Hajdu of California Area Middle School were named as finalists for this award.

The award will be presented at the WCCF Legacy Gala on June 3 at the Holiday Inn Meadowlands. As part of the award a \$1,000 grant will be made to the PTHS Thespian Troop 185. Reservations to the Gala may be made by calling the WCCF at 724-222-6330. The WCCF accepts applications year round for the Dr. Howard Jack Outstanding Public Educator Award. Check [www.wccf.net](http://www.wccf.net) for details and an application.

*Dorothy Tecklenburg contributed to this story.*

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