

PRESS RELEASE

. . . from the Illinois House of Representatives

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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Ford Honors Local Golden Apple Recipient

CHICAGO, IL. – A teacher at Michele Clark Academic Prep High School received a surprise visit from state Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) on Friday morning. Rosalind Kline-Thomas, a 2 year teaching veteran and recent recipient of the Golden Apple Award, was presented with a resolution in her honor from the Illinois House of Representatives.

“We are so proud of Ms. Rosalind Kline-Thomas, because she is exactly what this community needs,” Ford said. “She is a teacher who cares about her students, committed to empowering them, cultivating their minds, and preparing them for collegiate scholarship. We need to showcase her enthusiasm and highlight the wonderful aspects that make up the Greater Austin community.”

Since 1986, the Golden Apple Foundation has recognized outstanding Chicago-area educators who make a difference in the lives of their students. Kline-Thomas, a former corporate buyer, decided to leave her lucrative career behind to focus on her passion to educate students.

Ford drafted House Resolution 1269 in honor of Kline-Thomas, and it was passed by the Illinois House of Representatives on May 25. She currently serves as a mathematics teacher and chair of the math department at the Michele Clark Academic Prep High School in Chicago.

“I am so grateful to be able to make a difference in the Austin community while pursuing my passion,” said Kline-Thomas.

Dr. Henry West, Principal of Michele Clark High School for the past three years said, “She can get almost any student to enjoy learning algebra by employing her exceptional relationship skills, expertly using technology and being able to relate the math skills to everyday life.”

“Teaching truly is a passion, and when you have ‘jewels’ in the community such as Ms. Kline-Thomas, they make everybody shine,” Ford said. “Because of her efforts and creativity, many students have been inspired to excel.”

As a recipient of the 2010 Golden Apple award, Rosalind Kline-Thomas will receive a tuition-free, six month sabbatical to study at Northwestern University and a \$3,000 cash award. She will also become a fellow of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators.

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