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Prince William County High School Teacher Receives \$25,000 Milken Educator Award

WOODBIDGE, Va. — C.D. Hylton High School teacher Lauren Anne Wilson today received a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award during a surprise assembly at the Prince William County school. The award was presented by Superintendent of Public Instruction Steven R. Staples, and Milken Family Foundation co-founder Michael Milken in the school gymnasium before the school's students and faculty.

"I'm lucky to do what I love every day," Wilson said after the announcement.

Wilson, a 1997 Hylton graduate, has served at the school as a mathematics teacher, volleyball/soccer coach and mentor for new teachers. The division credits her collaborative approach and commitment to high expectations as contributing to Hylton High's success in raising student achievement in mathematics, especially in Algebra I.

"Lauren Wilson's career exemplifies caring, leadership and initiative," Staples said. "She is a continuous learner and motivator, researching and implementing innovative practices that help students excel while sharing her knowledge, wisdom and friendship with teachers just entering the field."

Wilson began teaching Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus BC in 2005 with 13 students. Within a year, the percentage of her students scoring high enough on the corresponding AP examination to qualify for college credit had increased from 35 percent to 85 percent. By 2014, enrollment in the class had more than doubled, with 100 percent of Wilson's AP Calculus BC students achieving at the college level on the exam.

Wilson began her career in 2001 after earning a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Virginia. In 2004, she earned a master's in mathematics from the University of Mary Washington.

The Milken Educator Awards program recognizes and rewards teachers, principals and other public school educators who promote excellence and innovation. Wilson is the 42nd Virginia educator to receive the award since 1999.

Recipients are selected on the basis of multiple criteria related to instructional practice, leadership, student achievement and accomplishments outside the classroom. Since the launch of the Milken Educator Awards in 1987, the Milken Family Foundation has distributed more than \$66 million in awards to more than 2,600 educators across the country including \$1,025,000 million in Virginia.

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