

REACH FOR THE STARS

Gala



“Education breeds confidence.
Confidence breeds hope.
Hope breeds peace.”

≡ **Confucius**



The Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education

Reach FOR THE *Stars Gala*

Thursday, February 4, 2016

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Honoring

Mr. Brian Reynolds

District Honoree

Huntington Technology Teacher



Officer Andrew "Drew" Fiorillo

Community Honoree

Suffolk Police School Resource Officer



“I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

— **Maya Angelou**

Program

Alice Marie Rorke

President

Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education

Mr. James Polansky

Superintendent of Huntington Union Free School District

Officer Andrew "Drew" Fiorillo

Community Honoree

School Resource Officer

Proclamation Presentation

Mr. Ed Parry, Mr. Michael Ferreira

Mr. Brian Reynolds

District Honoree

Technology Teacher, Robotics Chairperson

Proclamation Presentation



Kimberley Steinberg

Gala Chairperson

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

≡ **Theodore Roosevelt**

Our District Honoree



MR. BRIAN REYNOLDS

In the Huntington School District since 1990, Mr. Brian Reynolds is a technology teacher at both the Finley Middle School and Huntington High School. He has devoted an enormous amount of time to Huntington Robotics and coaches the Huntington High School Robotics team.

As a longtime Huntington School District faculty member, Mr. Reynolds is quite popular among both students and parents alike. For the students, it's because of his incredible dedication to their growth and academic success. For the parents, it's the appreciation that comes with knowing someone like Mr. Reynolds is making a positive impact on their son or daughter.

Known for his quirky, innovative and exciting ideas, Mr. Reynolds has brought invaluable teaching skills to his classroom which have created an undeniable connection with his students. These are among the many sentiments spoken when asked how they feel about Mr. Reynolds ...

"I loved his teaching skills and how he cares about each student." "If you're struggling, he'll take his time with you, he doesn't just do the work for you, he does it with you until you finally get it." "I had a difficult time in tech and he would spend extra time with me to make sure I understood what the assignment was and how to use each machine properly."

It is also no surprise Mr. Reynolds is loved and respected by his peers in the district for his dedication to his profession. He spent four years as the school district's computer integration specialist and has devoted untold hours working with the Huntington's Robotics team as its faculty advisor. He is also a necessity to the Huntington school district's STEM program.

A graduate of South Side High School in Rockville Centre, Mr. Reynolds obtained an undergraduate degree at SUNY Oswego and a master's degree at New York Institute of Technology. He currently resides in Rockville Centre with his wife, Elizabeth, and their two sons, Quinn and Jack.

For his love of science and technology and his tireless hours of devotion to our students, the Huntington Foundation is most proud to have Mr. Reynolds as its 2016 District Honoree.

"Character Counts."

≈ **Anonymous**

Our Community Honoree



OFFICER ANDREW "DREW" FIORILLO

Officer Andrew Fiorillo is the Suffolk Police school resource officer (SRO) assigned to the Huntington School District. He has worked in the county SRO program since it was founded in May 2004.

Widely known in the school district as "Officer Drew," Mr. Fiorillo has worked hard to foster understanding, trust and respect for Suffolk Police through his SRO role. Regularly mentoring at-risk students, standing in as a liaison between students and social agencies and enhancing anti-gang initiatives are just some of the invaluable ways in which Officer Drew has become an integral figure in our school environment.

A graduate of Queens College with a major in History, Officer Drew began his career as a New York City police officer, and later went on to become a New York City firefighter. In 2001 he moved to Long Island where he would become a police officer for Suffolk County. His decision to follow this career path of service stemmed from his love of "being in direct contact with many individuals and having the opportunity to help people." Often quoted as saying "I'm living the dream," Officer Drew is living his dream of making a difference. Through his SRO position, he hopes to inspire students to one day make a difference in the lives of others as well. He currently resides in Nassau County with his wife Christine and their two sons Jack and Noah.

Officer Drew is widely regarded as both humble and incredibly invested in the betterment of our school community. Helping individuals who are not on the right track in life grow to become successful in whatever path they choose is his life's commitment. He is truly a hero for his service to our community, and the Huntington Foundation is most proud to have Officer Drew as its 2016 Community Honoree.



**Some of the Grants funded through the
Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education include:**

Funding of the Finley Robotics Program

Laser cutters, 3D printer, Hydroponics lab for Finley

Freshwater Pond at STEM School (for the study of abiotic and biotic
factors of an ecosystem)

Marching Band Percussion instruments and Instrument Trailer

Creation of the Heritage Museum

Hydration Filtered Water Filling Stations at the High School

Dozens of Smart Boards and related devices including movable
Technology Stations at Woodhull and Finley

Renovation of the High School Weight Room

The Huntington Crew Team (boats, trailer, radios)

Cell Culture Lab for the Biology and Science Research Program

iMac for the Photo Lab

A Kitchen for the Life Skills Class (Special Education)

Leadership Club at Primary Schools

and much more thanks to your generosity!

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Tributes



Congratulations Officer Drew. ~ **M.A. Connell Funeral Home**

The J Taylor Finley Middle School PTA congratulates our very own Mr. Brian Reynolds for his boundless dedication to our students & Officer Drew for his compassion and care of all the students of HUFSD.

Congratulations to the honorees! Thank you for your continued dedication to the Huntington School District. ~ **Huntington UFSD PTA Council**

Congratulations Drew for a well deserved recognition. You are much loved.
~ **Dr. Leonardi**

Mazel Tov Brian Reynolds! We are so happy to celebrate with you the many lives you have touched, friends, family and students! ~ **Teresa & Jon Richman**

To an advocate for technology with a big vision and big heart. Keep at it!
Congratulations Brian. ~ **The Saginaw Family**

Brian Reynolds, Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the robotics program. ~ **The Finley Robotics Team**

Congratulations Officer Drew and Brian Reynolds! ~ **Band Parent Association (BPA)**

Congratulations to both honorees on this well deserved honor! ~ **Booster Club**

Congratulations on a well deserved honor. Thank you both for your dedication to our students. ~ **The Rogan Family**

Proud to support HFEE and the 2016 honorees! ~ **Cynthia and Jerry Nigro**

Tributes



Congratulations Officer Drew and Brian Reynolds! ~ **Mr. Chas Finello**

Congratulations on this wonderful event honoring two very special individuals, Brian Reynolds and Officer Drew. ~ **Ms. Ellen P. Ryan Hamilton-Jones**

Congratulations HFEE and the 2016 honorees! ~ **Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hrybenko**

Thank you to the honorees for their commitment to the Huntington School District! ~ **Ms. Janet Olesen**

Proud to support HFEE and the 2016 honorees! ~ **Mr. and Mrs. Eric Wood**

Congratulations Brian Reynolds and Officer Drew on this much deserved honor!
~ **Michael J. Brown PC, Attorney at Law**

Congratulations to the honorees! Thank you for your continued dedication to the Huntington School District. ~ **John Loturco Esq.**

Congratulations Brian for a job well done. ~ **Dr. Leonardi**

The HUFSD Administrators send congratulations to Brian Reynolds and Officer Drew Fiorillo. Two true professionals who are committed to excellence every day!

Huntington High School PTSA congratulates Officer Drew and Mr. Reynolds on this special well deserved honor. Thank you for all you do for the high school students.

The Huntington High School Robotics Team congratulates Mr. Brian Reynolds for this much deserved recognition. Thank You for all you do!



Our Gratitude



...to the following Donors

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		Mitchells	TBS/TNT

Our Work



OVERVIEW

The Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education is a non-profit 501 (C)(3) corporation which was founded in June 1993. Our organization is a group of volunteers dedicated to improving the quality of education for the children of Huntington by funding innovative learning opportunities, which would otherwise not be offered due to district budget constraints. Since its inception, the Foundation has funded over \$900,000 in educator-requested grants ranging from creation of the Robotics club at Finley Middle School, building the AP Biology cell culture lab and supplying technical measuring tools at the High School, to founding and supporting leadership clubs at the Primary Schools. We support bringing the latest technological advancements into our schools to keep our students as prepared as possible for the challenges they will face in college and beyond. With your help, we will continue to support the passion of our teachers to provide our children with the high level of education they deserve!

WHO WE ARE

A volunteer group of education supporters who work with a board of directors to fund innovative and exciting educational opportunities for all children in the district. This funding affords our teachers access to educational programs that are not funded by the school budget. Often these new programs are then incorporated into the curriculum on an ongoing basis.

OUR MISSION

The Huntington Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of the Huntington Public Schools in education, the arts and athletics. From state-of-the-art technology and equipment to cutting-edge teaching techniques, the educator-generated grants we fund expand our students' curriculum as well as their enthusiasm for learning.

HOW WE DO IT

We primarily raise funds through our annual Gala event. We also seek grants from other foundations and organizations which support education. We are always looking for new ways to fund the grant applications submitted by our educators. Our goal is to fulfill every Star and Miini Grant that is approved by our board. We know we can do it...and graciously thank all our supporters.

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