



MASC Awards Overview

MASC award applications are open to member schools.

Wayne H. Perry Principal of the Year Award

Note: This is an award for one middle and one high school principal (regions may nominate one of each level)

Research supports the fact that the principal is the KEY to the success of any school. Those who work in the area of student activities know that the principal is also the KEY to the establishment and continuation of vital programs. Without the strong support of the principal, student activities, involvement and representation at the school, region, state, and national level would not be possible. It is for that reason that MASC seeks to identify and recognize those middle and high school principals who enable and empower student leaders and student organizations while maintaining high standards for the comprehensive school program.

Wayne H. Perry began his career as a music teacher and, after thirteen years teaching, moved into school administration. He served in a variety of administrative positions for seventeen years, and is today a retired principal of Harford County Public Schools. While a high school assistant principal, Mr. Perry also served as the Harford County Regional Association of Student Councils Advisor from 1991 – 1999. It was during this time as regional advisor for HCRASC that Mr. Perry became involved with MASC.



He immediately saw the importance of local, regional, state, and national alignment of student voice and advocacy and began to contribute more and more to MASC activities. Working with so many dynamic student leaders over the years had been inspiring, thrilling, and fulfilling, so he was happy to find a way to stay involved at the state level. In 2004, while serving as a middle school principal, he accepted the position of the official MASC Registrar.

Mr. Perry and his wife Karen have been married for 38-years, have 5 children, and 9 grandchildren. He is an adjunct instructor at McDaniel College, and even though he's not teaching music anymore, he remains an active musician as assistant director of the Deer Creek Chorale, and director of his church choir. In addition, Mr. Perry is the director of an a cappella quintet, Bonus Track. In his "spare" time he enjoys home renovation and remodeling, including volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.

Whether Mr. Perry is working on a house, his music, his teaching, or MASC, he always gives his best. It is his dedication and support to MASC and students across the state of Maryland that inspired MASC to name this award: The Wayne Perry Principal of the Year Award.

Mike Michaelson Advisor of the Year Award

At the school, region, and statewide levels, student council advisors work hard to support student council activities. All student council advisors contribute to the success of student council organizations.

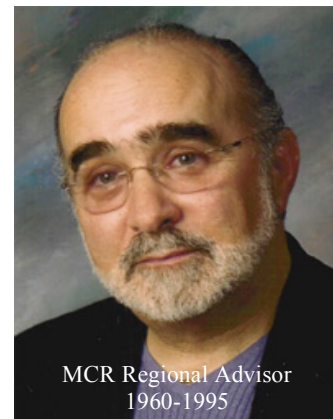
The MASC Advisor of the Year program was created to recognize the contributions of advisors to student council success across the state of Maryland. While the award does single out an individual on the state level, the purpose of the award is to highlight the many contributions made by all student council advisors throughout the state. To bring recognition to as many advisors as possible, each regional organization is encouraged to establish its own advisor recognition program.

Mike Michaelson began his career in education as a teacher and student government advisor at Montgomery Blair High School, in Montgomery County, where he taught biology and earth science for eleven years. While teaching, Mike served as the Montgomery County Regional Advisor (MCR) and joined MLW (then called MASC Leadership Workshops), serving as the Director of MLW's Senior High Workshop as well as the MLW's Executive Director. Although he enjoyed teaching, Mike became the student affairs coordinator for Montgomery County Public Schools. During his tenure as student affairs coordinator, Mike was able to work with students to put a student on the Montgomery County Board of Education and to win their voting rights. He also is credited with elevating the voting process for this student election to a real life arena, supporting civic involvement and engagement. He advocated for county funding for MCR and MCJC (Montgomery County Junior Councils) as well as for recognition of the importance of regional involvement, and the

creation of a coordinator position dedicated to Montgomery County student activities.

For many years after his retirement in 1994, Mike continued to be involved with the MASC and MLW leadership development programs throughout the state. Mike aided MASC in all our endeavors and is still a champion of all student leaders, past and present. In all of these positions, Mike has invested his time, energy and leadership in developing youth and transforming them into confident, empowered catalysts for positive change.

Further, he has inspired many young people to pursue careers in public education and public service. Throughout his career and still today, Mike has advised and supported both MLW and the Maryland Association of Student Councils. His impact is not only immeasurable, but truly invaluable. Perhaps most important, Mike has fostered in countless thousands of youth the confidence necessary to believe in themselves, pursue their dreams and passions, and succeed in every aspect of their lives. It is his dedication and support to MASC and students, both past and present, from all over the state of Maryland, which inspired MASC to name this award: The Mike Michaelson Advisor of the Year Award.



Middle School Advisor of the Year Award

At the school, region, and statewide levels, student council advisors work hard to support student council activities. All student council advisors contribute to the success of student council organizations. The MASC Middle School Advisor of the Year Award was created to recognize the special contributions of middle school advisors in promoting middle school involvement at the school, regional, and state levels thus ensuring student council success across the state of Maryland. These advisors fill a special role in our organization by inspiring younger leaders to become involved in MASC early. While the award does single out an individual on the state level, the purpose of the award is to highlight the many contributions made by all student council advisors throughout the state.

Felix Simon Award for Leadership and Service



These awards (middle and high school levels) were created to allow student council officers, members, and their advisors to evaluate their council against a shared set of standards and create an opportunity for student councils to be recognized for their effectiveness. Awards are presentation to student councils achieving a total number of points equal to the standards set by the MASC Executive Board. There are separate criteria for middle school and high schools.

Felix Simon, fondly referred to as "Uncle Si" came to Maryland in the early 1950s and was offered a job at Bladensburg High School as a guidance counselor and student council advisor. That launched his lifetime commitment to the student leaders of Maryland.

In 1954 he became the first Executive Secretary of MASC. He quickly identified the need for a program to teach the leadership, self-confidence, and human relations skills central to student councils and student-led organizations. Based on feedback from students, he began a MASC summer leadership conference in 1956 using a peer-teaching model.

In 1959, he gave up the Executive Secretary position to concentrate on the workshop.

In 1972 MASC became affiliated with the Maryland State Department of Education. The MASC summer workshop became independent of MASC and has been known ever since as MLW: Maryland Leadership Workshops.

His career as a high school guidance counselor ended in Baltimore County in 1981 and he continued with MLW until the mid 1980s.

Uncle Si passed away in 1996 at the tender age of 94. His memory and spirit lives on through each person who has ever been associated with MASC and MLW. His desire to have every Maryland student provided with opportunities for leadership and growth was what inspired MASC to name the Student Council awards after him: the Felix Simon Award for Leadership and Service.

Susan Nash Travetto Friend of MASC Award

MASC Officers and Executive Director nominate and select this award recipient. It is given to someone who has contributed to the success and growth of the organization and its leadership team during any given year.

Susan Nash Travetto began her Maryland teaching career as a Physical Education teacher in Charles County. She later worked as a guidance counselor and administrator in Calvert County. She became a Specialist in Research and Development at the Maryland State Department of Education, and then took the position of Student Affairs Specialist. It was in this role that she became the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Student Councils. Dr. Travetto served more than nine years as the Executive Director, and has the distinction of being the longest serving Executive Director in the history of MASC. Currently, Dr. Travetto is the Coordinator of Teacher Professional Development in the Education Department at McDaniel College, which involves coordinating the field placement office where she helps to provide leadership and support for all school-based internships including student teaching. However, she is always available to support MASC, both its mission and its people.



Dr. Travetto's philosophy of teaching and leadership is very simple and unoriginal, though greatly inspirational. "No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care." She believes that being a successful leader in any capacity involves attending to relationships! In response, Dr. Travetto carried out her tenure at MASC with the theme that leadership is about finding each individual's strengths and fitting that strength into the mosaic of the organization, which is ultimately what helped MASC to develop into the solid and strong organization that it has become.

In her own words, Dr. Travetto describes her MASC experience: "While I was with MASC, I had the opportunity to work with extraordinary student leaders who sincerely understood that leadership wasn't about being in the spotlight. I will never forget the honor and privilege of serving MASC and working with the most unforgettable student leaders this state has ever known. I learned from them every day, and they helped me to achieve my life goals."

Dr. Travetto would also like to send a personal message to the MASC student leaders: "Take your positions of leadership very seriously. You have been given a very special opportunity to do the important work in your schools and communities. Never take that for granted because we are all counting on you."

Dr. Travetto inspired many advisors to be a champion of students and other advisors. She set the tone and modeled how advisors should help others by lifting them up and helping them to succeed. Her willingness to do whatever was necessary for the success of the organization as well as the people involved is what set her apart from others. Many advisors aspire to her standard of excellence, which is what inspired MASC to name this award: The Susan Nash Travetto Friend of MASC Award.

Catherine Nora Murray Unsung Hero of MASC Award



This special award is presented to an individual who has gone above and beyond in working with MASC, often "behind the scenes," usually for many years. The executive board nominates and selects this recipient.

Catherine Nora Murray graduated from Liberty High School in Carroll County in 1982, proudly representing the school's first ever-graduating class. After attending Towson University, Mrs. Murray went back to her alma mater to teach students health education. In 1998, she proudly took on the role of the Liberty Student Government Association advisor, continually building the program during her tenure. In her first year, she also brought her school to Maryland Association of Student Councils events where she admits she "fell in love with MASC." In 2004, Mrs. Murray received the MASC Advisor of the year award for her exceptional leadership. Under her leadership, Liberty High's SGA received MASC's Felix Simon Award in 2006. Mrs. Murray not only led her SGA towards excellence, but inspired her students through her caring, devoted leadership.

Mrs. Murray led the Liberty SGA for 10 years until 2008. In 2008, she became MASC's executive director, where she coordinated many events including the Fall Conference, Legislative Session, and Convention, as well as actively supporting the Region 2 conference. In 2009, she inspired and received the Catherine Nora Murray Unsung Hero Award, presented in recognition of her selfless service to the students she supported. After the MSDE changed the Executive Director position in 2009, which resulted in Mrs. Murray being removed, she continued to actively support MASC and its many events.

In 2009, she became the advisor of the Carroll County Student Government Association, where she served until 2013. As CCSGA's advisor, she grew attendance to record numbers, as well as developed leaders for life.

In 2014, Mrs. Murray joined Baltimore County Public Schools and served as the Regional Advisor for the Baltimore County Student Councils until she lost her 14-year battle with sarcoma cancer in 2022.

In 2015, Mrs. Murray was recognized as the Region II Earl Reum Award recipient (representing Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware), an award given by the National Association for Student Activities (formerly National Association of Workshop Directors - NAWD). In 2022, she received the Karen Crawford Regional Advisor of the Year award from MASC.

Throughout her tenure in these various positions, Mrs. Murray never forgot the importance of having a relationship with each student. Despite her diagnosis with Sarcoma in 2008, she never lost her positive attitude, continuing to smile and lead through her multiple surgeries to fight the disease until she lost the battle in 2022.

Karen L. Crawford Regional Advisor of the Year Award

At the region and statewide levels, regional student council advisors work hard to support student council activities. The regional advisor helps schools in managing programs at the regional level to help with the development of their student leaders, addressing issues at a regional level, and coordinating participating in MASC events.

Karen L. Crawford graduated from Northwood High School in Montgomery County, completed an undergraduate degree at the University of Maryland, and earned graduate degrees at Bowie State University and Johns Hopkins University. In 1977, Mrs. Crawford starting her teaching career in Montgomery County Public Schools. While there, she served as the student council advisor in various schools and as the regional advisor for the Montgomery County Junior Councils (MCJC) where she began working more intensely with MASC and Dr. Sue Travetto, the executive director of MASC at that time. In 1999, she was appointed as the Student Affairs Coordinator, an administrative position at the central office in Montgomery County working with student leadership programs and serving as the regional advisor for the Montgomery County Region of the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MCR). While working as the MCR advisor, Mrs. Crawford began serving as the "unofficial" assistant executive director, a position that became official in 2013. After her retirement from Montgomery County in 2014, she has continued as the MASC assistant executive director, serving as the acting executive director from June 2018 through September 2019.



In addition to receiving the MASC Advisor of the Year Award (1993), Sue Travetto Friend of MASC (2003), and the Catherine Nora Murray Unsung Hero Award (2013), Mrs. Crawford is the recipient of various MASC awards for hosting conferences. She is the recipient of the Region II Earl Reum Award (representing Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware), an award given by the National Association for Student Activities as well as several awards from the Maryland Leadership Workshops (MLW).

Mrs. Crawford believes strongly in the student voice. Advising, teaching, and learning with the students in Maryland, she strives to develop relationships with and among students that facilitate peer learning and leadership growth. She continues to volunteer her time and talents wherever they are needed in working with MASC. For her dedication and work as a regional advisor (MCJC six years and MCR 15 years), and her continued volunteer work with the Maryland student leaders, MASC has named the Regional Advisor of the Year Award in her honor.

Outstanding Student Leader

MASC recognizes a student from each region who make a difference through their leadership and extraordinary commitment to improving the school or community while excelling in their academic pursuits.