



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Ed Richardson
Interim State Superintendent of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

Governor Kay Ivey
President

Jackie Zeigler
District I

Betty Peters
District II

Stephanie Bell
District III
Vice President

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

Ella B. Bell
District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI
President Pro Tem

Jeff Newman
District VII

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.
District VIII

Ed Richardson
Interim Secretary and
Executive Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 28, 2017

CONTACT: **Communications**
334-242-9950
comm@alsde.edu

**HOOVER CITY SCHOOLS TEACHER VINCENT CHIARAMONTE IS
ALABAMA’S \$25,000 MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENT**
R.F. Bumpus Middle School educator shares his love of coding with community at-large



Montgomery, Ala. — From high-fives to inspirational notes, from coding to robots, R.F. Bumpus Middle School computer science teacher Vincent Chiaramonte’s exuberance for all things tech inspires his middle school students to create things they never thought imaginable for themselves – he gives them a purpose. Today, Chiraramonte is recipient of one of the [nation’s top education awards](#).

Milken Educator Awards Senior Vice President Dr. Jane Foley announced the Hoover City Schools educator [as Alabama’s 2017 Milken Educator Award honoree](#) as part of a surprise all-school assembly. Chiaramonte is among up to [45 honorees](#) for 2017-18 to receive the national recognition and unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize.

[The Milken Educator Awards](#), hailed by *Teacher* magazine as the “Oscars of Teaching” has been opening minds and shaping futures for 30 years. Research shows teacher quality is the driving in-school factor behind student growth and achievement. The initiative not only aims to reward great teachers, but to celebrate, elevate and activate those innovators in the classroom who are guiding America’s next generation of leaders.

-more-

HOOVER CITY TEACHER VINCENT CHIARAMONTE IS ALABAMA'S \$25,000 MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENT

November 28, 2017

“This recognition of Vincent Chiaramonte is a testament to his unwavering commitment to developing life-long learners,” said Interim State Superintendent Ed Richardson. “Mr. Chiaramonte’s classroom is a differentiated wonderland of learning where he weaves in new technologies and creative ideas to engage students in discussions about the connections between the curriculum and real life. He strives daily to inspire his students and nurture their skills to make them the best they can absolutely be. We are proud to recognize Vincent Chiaramonte – a role model for what rigorous and innovative instruction looks like in action – as Alabama’s 2017 Milken Educator.”

[Milken Educator Awards](#) Senior Vice President Dr. Jane Foley echoed those remarks.

“Vincent Chiaramonte has not only impacted his own classroom and students across the school district, but now, the entire state of Alabama with his engaging and practical curriculum exposing middle school students to understanding and navigating the tech world,” said Foley. “Beyond just the study of computational algorithms, Vincent is providing his students transferrable skills and tech applications that could propel any of his students to be a force for innovation and scientific discovery. As Milken Educators, we’re very excited to see what his future holds.”

Chiaramonte joined the faculty of R.F. Bumpus Middle School in 2014. The role enables him to help students master foundational computer science skills through coding, computational thinking, sequencing, and formulation. Chiaramonte believes all students should become what he calls “solution-makers”: young minds that use critical-thinking skills to solve problems encountered in everyday life.

“Vinny is an outstanding young man with a passion for students and a network of colleagues who respect him as a leader in his school,” said Hoover City Schools Superintendent Dr. Kathy Murphy. “He is a committed educator with an exceptional delivery of instruction. Oh, that America’s classrooms could be filled with the likes of Vinny Chiaramonte!”

Chiaramonte provides a stimulating and challenging classroom environment using a “living” curriculum that weaves in new technologies and out-of-the-box big ideas, including a Robots on the Move project and designing math software about cornrow braiding. Reinventing his own computer science courses, lessons are built around guided and independent practice, student-led instruction, critical thinking, and real-life applications with a writing component accompanying all final projects.

In addition to his roles as classroom teacher and football coach, Chiaramonte is the school’s Engaged Learning Initiative facilitator working with teachers throughout the district to promote its 1:1 environment, a program to provide access to each child with a tech device (e.g. iPad or Chromebook).

-more-

HOOVER CITY TEACHER VINCENT CHIARAMONTE IS ALABAMA'S \$25,000 MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENT

November 28, 2017

His leadership position on the school improvement team resulted in The Bumpus Way – a new positive culture initiative at the school.

A blog contributor to www.csforallteachers.org, Chiaramonte also shares his knowledge and love for technology with the community at-large. He is the volunteer designer and lead teacher for the TechBirmingham Code Club and Kids-Code-A-Thon, and graduated from Space Camp for Educators.

A native of Georgia, Chiaramonte earned his Bachelor of Science in biblical studies from Toccoa Falls College in 2002, and his Master of Secondary Education in social science from the University of Montevallo.

[The Milken Educator Awards](#) recognize teacher leaders, who are innovative and effective, in the early to middle part of their career. This is a rigorous and confidential selection process. Teachers cannot apply for the award. Educators are recommended without their knowledge to the [Milken Family Foundation](#) by an independent blue-ribbon panel appointed by each state's department of education.

Awards alternate yearly between elementary and secondary educators. In recognizing these outstanding teachers with \$25,000, the [Foundation](#) hopes to raise public awareness that high-quality teachers are essential to student achievement.

Chiaramonte joins the [Milken Educator Network](#), a nationwide coalition of more than 2,700 top educators who have access to a variety of professional resources to help cultivate and expand innovative programs in their classrooms, schools and districts. Click [here](#) for more information on the Milken Educator Awards, or [here](#) to learn more about Alabama's Milken Educator Awards recipients.



###