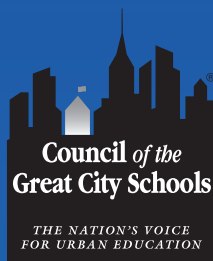


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# QUEEN SMITH *Award*

FOR COMMITMENT TO  
URBAN EDUCATION





Council of the Great City Schools &  
McGraw-Hill Education  
Announce

# The Queen Smith Award for Commitment to Urban Education 2025



Queen was a much loved and admired colleague who always said it like it was. She worked with many of us in key accounts, at national exhibits, and participated in all new product development discussions. She was well-known nationally in urban accounts and elsewhere. In the early 1990s, she established the Educator's Collaborative, a leadership group of national educational leaders, brought together to focus on the needs of urban schools and children. During the last several years of her life, she was a major presence in the Council of the Great City Schools and was Chair of the Urban Education Technology Form (UETF) section of the Council. She was also active in the National Alliance of Black School Educators. In 1996, Queen represented Macmillan/McGraw-Hill on a trip to South Africa with a number of other educators to learn about their educational system and to share ideas about our system. This was a very proud moment for her.



Queen joined Macmillan/McGraw-Hill School Publishing Company in June 1989. She had been a junior high school teacher and was involved in school publishing as a sales representative, consultant, consultant manager, and a software curriculum specialist. In 1991, she served as Urban Specialist and then promoted to Vice President, Urban Sales.



The Queen Smith Award for Commitment to Urban Education was established in October 1998 in celebration of the unwavering commitment Queen gave to children, her community, and her church. During the Council's 69th Annual Fall Conference (October 22-26) in Philadelphia, PA, \$5,000 will be awarded to a teacher who has made significant contributions to education and to the community. The \$5,000 award will be presented Thursday, October 23rd. Additionally, \$1,000 will be awarded to the Council of the Great City Schools whose programs serve as models for educating future generations.



# The Queen Smith Award for Commitment to Urban Education 2025

APPLICATION SPECIFICATIONS (Must be submitted online, with all supplemental materials emailed to [apateriya@cgcs.org](mailto:apateriya@cgcs.org).)

- \* Teacher nominee's name and contact information
- \* Nominee's Resume (Please indicate full education and work history)
- \* List of official recognition of the nominee's contributions to education: awards, citations, community recognition, etc.
- \* Nomination letter explaining why you believe the nominee deserves to receive *The Queen Smith Award for Commitment to Urban Education*.
- \* Two letters of reference (From people other than the nominator)
- \* Short biographical sketch of the teacher
- \* Color photograph (high-resolution) of the nominee

CLICK HERE TO APPLY ONLINE:

<https://tinyurl.com/CGCSQueenSmith2025>

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### NOMINEES

- Nominees must be a teacher. Superintendents and board members should apply for the Green/Garner Award.
- School district must be an active member of the Council of the Great City Schools.
- Nominees must be willing to attend the Annual Fall Conference to accept the award during an evening banquet, Thursday, October 23rd. Registration is waived for winner and a guest.
- Nominees must submit a current photograph.
- Proof of volunteer community involvement is required.
- Employees, retirees or relatives of employees or retirees of McGraw-Hill Education are not eligible to be nominated.
- Neither the members constituting the Board of Judges, nor their relatives, are eligible to be nominated. The Council of the Great City Schools will select the Board of Judges.

### NOMINATING PROCEDURE

- Each year, the Board of Judges will select one winner from nominations **submitted** to the Council of the Great City Schools.
- Nominations sent directly to McGraw-Hill Education will not be considered.
- **Completed nominations must be received by August 22, 2025.**

### JUDGING CRITERIA

The award winner:

- must have made a significant impact in the field of education.
- must be effectively involved in a community organization whose policies and programs support the perpetuation of creative and effective education for all age groups.
- must have taken a significant leadership role in furthering a specific aspect of education (curriculum, technology, policymaking, etc.).
- must be serving the interest of children as an employee in a member district of the Council of the Great City Schools at the time of nomination.
- *The Queen Smith Award* will be awarded without regard to race, creed, religion, sex, age, or national affiliation.

### DEADLINE

**Nominations must be received by the Council of the Great City Schools by August 22, 2025.** The winner will be notified by the Council of the Great City Schools.



# Queen Smith Recipients



2024 Queen Smith Award was granted to Mona Al-Hayani of Toledo Public Schools



2023 Queen Smith Award was granted to Christina Kirk of Oklahoma City Public Schools.



A McGraw-Hill representative, left, and Council Executive Director Ray Hart presented Sharna Beightol, a science and chemistry teacher at John A. Ferguson Senior High School in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, with the 2022 Queen Smith award.



A McGraw-Hill representative, left, and former Council Executive Director Michael Casserly presented Andrea Greene, the choral director at Jones High School in Florida's Orange County Public Schools in Orlando, with the 2018 Queen Smith award.



Alicia Isaac, a teacher for 11 years at Boca Ciega High School in Florida's Pinellas County Schools, was presented with the 2017 Queen Smith Award. A social studies teacher, Isaac created an afterschool study club that led to significant increases in the number of students passing Advanced Placement exams.

# A

ll children are to be endeared and nurtured with careful guidance. With this in mind, each generation is bequeathed a legacy of unwavering commitment by the torch we all must carry.”

— Queen Smith

Council of the Great City Schools will present the Queen Smith Award for Commitment to Urban Education to an urban school teacher who has made significant contributions to education and the community at the Council’s 69th Annual Fall Conference. Sponsored by McGraw-Hill Education, the award is named in memory of the company’s late vice president of urban programs.



COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS  
1331 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

# WE ARE Public Education

*Defining the Future.*



**69TH ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE**  
**OCTOBER 22-26, 2025**  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PHILADELPHIA