



THE MICHELLE TRAINA RIECKE TEACHING FELLOWSHIP The South Orange-Maplewood Education Foundation

General Information

Mission

The Michelle T. Riecke Teaching Fellowship is an endowed fellowship that awards yearly grants to educators in the South Orange-Maplewood School District (SOMSD) who wish to pursue an educational experience that can be directly applied to their creative teaching practices, and upon completion of the course of study, can be shared with additional SOMSD educators.

Vision

- To infuse SOMSD educators with a passion to educate the students in our school district using innovative and creative teaching practices, in both a traditional classroom setting and beyond the classroom.
- To share newly acquired ideas, practices, and materials with fellow district educators, so that knowledge gained will be used for the benefit of students throughout the school district.

Recalling a Friend: The Riecke Fellowship Promotes Outstanding Teaching

Michelle (Shelley) T. Riecke lived in Maplewood for eleven years with her husband Jon and their two children. An active community volunteer, Shelley was an elected member of the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education for six years, including a two-year-term as board president.



Shelley worked countless hours to ensure that all students in our school district receive a high quality education. She was a strong supporter of public education who believed that teachers are our schools' greatest asset and the key to maximizing student achievement. She also believed in the importance of continuing education for teachers, and in promoting the exchange of ideas, talents, and techniques between teachers and their colleagues.

In the spring of 2003, a friend of Shelley's approached her with the idea of establishing a fund in her honor that would afford SOMSD teachers the opportunity to attend a summertime continuing education experience that would strengthen and broaden their pedagogical skills; an experience that could subsequently be shared with other district educators.

Memorial gifts from family, friends, and community members were used to create the *Michelle Traina Riecke Teaching Fellowship* endowment. The first Riecke Teaching Fellowship was awarded in the spring of 2004.

Guiding Principles

- Yearly fellowships are awarded to individuals or teaching teams.
- Grants will be awarded based on the guidelines set forth in the fellowship's mission and vision statements, and with an awareness of SOMSD curriculum requirements and district goals.
- The number of grants and the total amount awarded is determined each year, based on a yearly review of the funds available.