



## **The Patsy Collins Award For Excellence in Education, Environment and Community**

IslandWood has been given the privilege of annually recognizing and honoring one outstanding K-12 educator who has made an exceptional contribution to the community in which he/she lives and the students he/she has taught. The award, titled ***The Patsy Collins Award for Excellence in Education, Environment and Community***, is given to a Puget Sound educator who is dedicated to creating powerful learning experiences for students by connecting students' education to the real world, while inspiring them towards community and environmental stewardship. These are the foundations on which IslandWood's educational philosophies are formed and what Patsy Collins believed in as a citizen leader in our region.

### **Successful candidates will be K-12 teachers who:**

- Actively use the environment/community as a context for learning
- Empower students to become responsible community citizens
- Create experiential, "hands-on" learning opportunities for all students

### **What is the award?**

Each year the educator who is selected receives a \$5,000 personal cash gift and \$2,500 to donate to a school or charity of choice.

### **Who is eligible for this award?**

Puget Sound K-12 educators in either a public, private or non-traditional school.

### **Who can nominate a teacher for this award?**

Anyone in the Puget Sound region can nominate an educator for this award.

### **How does someone nominate a teacher for this award?**

The person nominating a teacher completes an application which describes how this educator embodies experiential learning and how he/she has encouraged students to foster a high level of stewardship within their own communities. The finalists will be contacted by the nominating committee and asked to submit a current resume, and a description of the ways in which they embody in their teaching the desired qualifications, and a description of the non-profit of their choice.

### **What is the deadline for nominations?**

The deadline for nominations is April 1st. Selected teachers will be asked to submit supporting materials awards committee by May 1st.

**When is the award presented?**

Each year the award is presented at the graduation ceremony of IslandWood’s Graduate students. This ceremony takes place on the afternoon of the third Friday of June each year.

**Who is on the award selection committee?**

The selection committee is composed of: two IslandWood board members, two IslandWood staff, and two IslandWood Graduate Students (or alum grad students).

**Where does the award money come from?**

Each year the funds for the award are contributed by individuals in the community. The award money does not come from IslandWood’s budget.

**For more information contact:**

Cathy Sanford at [cathys@islandwood.org](mailto:cathys@islandwood.org)



**About Patsy Collins:**

Patsy Collins lived in Seattle, Washington from 1920 until her death in 2003. She was a visionary woman who was actively engaged in broad applications of "citizenship" by working with others towards a common cause. She believed that to get anything important accomplished in our world, you needed to mobilize your friends and then give generously from the heart. When she felt there was something needed for the greater community, in addition to contributing her own wealth, she focused on gathering wide support of the public and business sector. Her legacy lives on with her many contributions to the Seattle region. Ms Collins was one of the first board members of IslandWood when it was founded in 2001.

**About IslandWood:**

IslandWood is a unique 255-acre residential outdoor education center on Bainbridge Island designed to provide exceptional learning experiences and to inspire lifelong environmental and community stewardship. Our educational programs use the natural and cultural environment as a context for learning serving Puget Sound region 4th, 5th and 6th grade students and their teachers during a four-day stay. During the 2005-06 school year, over half of our students came from schools with large numbers of low-income families. Upon returning home, classrooms are supported to implement “Make a Difference Projects” in their communities such as planting a community garden or monitoring the water quality of a neighborhood stream. IslandWood also offers a residential program for graduate students in partnership with the University of Washington, and programs for community members, business groups and families. IslandWood’s buildings are sustainably designed and the campus has a focus on water conservation, composting, recycling, and harnessing alternative energy sources. The numerous green architectural design elements educate visiting children and adults about how to minimize natural resource use and live more responsibly in our world.

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**Nomination Form**

**Name of K-12 Teacher nominated for award:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact information: School District:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**phone/e-mail :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Nominating Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact information: phone/e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship to and/or experience with nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Support (Why is the nominee deserving of the Patsy Collins Award?) Please describe in 200 words or less how this teacher meets the criteria of the award.**

**Names of two additional supporters (supervisors, colleagues, students, parents) who can attest to this nominee's work.**