

2007 Apple Awards recipient announced

On March 17, more than 800 people gathered at the Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center to celebrate the dedication teachers in Douglas County demonstrate every day in our schools. Guests at the second annual Apple Awards, presented by Wells Fargo, enjoyed an evening of reflection, humor and camaraderie that included a video presentation with student, administrator and community member commentaries.

Sixty-two teachers were nominated by their peers and school community to represent their school at the program. This event showcases the wonderful examples of how teachers touch lives on a daily basis in and out of the classroom.

From the 62 nominees, finalists were selected to represent secondary and elementary schools in each feeder area. Each finalist was introduced by their principal, giving the audience a glimpse of the many unique personalities behind the classroom door. The program culminated with the announcement of this year's award recipient, Theresa Riege, Building Resource Teacher at Saddle Ranch Elementary.

"There's no doubt in my mind why we are all here," Riege said. "The kids are awesome-they make me want to come to work every day. The majority of the learning opportunities truly come from them."

This wonderful celebration was possible through the title sponsorship of Wells Fargo and the many corporate sponsors who supported this event. In addition to honoring these amazing teachers, the Douglas County Educational Foundation raised approximately \$80,000 to support excellence in the classrooms.

2007 Apple Award Finalists

Cynthia Bledsoe	Meadow View Elementary
Denina Brown	Douglas County High School
Bonnie Campos	Prairie Crossing Elementary
Gail Doornink	Iron Horse Elementary
Brad Johnson	ThunderRidge High School
Damon Larson	Chaparral High School
Suzanne Lustie	Rock Canyon High School
Nancy Mann	Flagstone Elementary
Schehera McKasson	Mountain Vista High School
Pat Nicholson	Cresthill Middle School
Nikki Niederbrach	Ponderosa High School
Mark Phillips	Summit View Elementary
Anne Powers	Redstone Elementary
Theresa Riege	Saddle Ranch Elementary
Anne Schearier	Arrowwood Elementary