



Awarded the
INSPIRA Award
of Excellence

Right: **Dan Morvaji** (left) with **Dr. Nate Carter** (right) at the 23rd Annual Golden Apple Awards. (photo provided)

Morvaji Honored as a Golden Teacher

On Saturday evening, September 6, The Hyatt Regency Hotel Chicago hosted The 23rd Annual Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching recognition and awards ceremony. The evening was just as impressive as the Academy Awards in Hollywood, but was significantly more important and rewarding to all those in attendance. The Golden Apple Award signifies what is right in education and how important teachers are to children they teach and their families.

It was a beautiful night in Chicago with all the stars and glitter, Middle School North's own, **Daniel Scott Morvaji**, was recognized for his outstanding achievement in education. Dan was chosen by the selection committee after receiving and reviewing over 800 other nominations from around the Chicagoland area. After a rigorous examination of his teaching practices, interviews with his students, parents, colleagues, and administrators it was determined that his positive impact on student learning and the lives of his children was most impressive and deserving of the prestigious



Golden Apple Award, the first ever for a teacher in District 95!

Dan, his family, fiancé, friends, several sixth grade teachers and MSN Principal **Dr. Nate Carter** attended the celebration. According to Dr. Carter, Dan "represented Middle School North and District 95 with exceptional class and dignity."

Morvaji was chosen by members of the Golden Apple Foundation to be the first

teacher to receive his award and, as they expected, Morvaji set the tone for the entire evening.

According to Dr. Carter, who talked to both of them, **Arne Duncan**, Chicago Public Schools CEO, and former State Superintendent Max McGee where both tremendously impressed with Dan and the accompanying Middle School North video footage which was shown during the awards ceremony.

You can check out the 2008 Golden Apple Awards on Thursday, September 18, beginning at 8 p.m., on WTTW Channel 11.

Hughes, Placek Named National Semifinalists



Shannon Hughes

Zurich High School seniors **Shannon Hughes** and **Donald Placek** have been named as semifinalists in the 54th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These two academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$35 million, that will be offered next spring.

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.



Donald Placek

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