

Raytheon Recognizes Two Local Math Heroes

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Math Hero Sharon Speet (center), a teacher at Our Mother of Sorrows School, and Principal Dave Keller receive matching \$2,500 checks from RMS Community Relations Director Colleen Niccum.



Billy Lane Lauffer Middle School teacher Corissa McClain (second from left) celebrates her Math Hero award with RMS Community Relations Director Colleen Niccum (left), Amanda and Monica Ortiz, and Principal Bob Miranda.

Raytheon recently gave two local teachers a big surprise — \$2,500 awards and the title of MathMovesU® Math Hero. The awards are part of Raytheon Company's MathMovesU™ program.

Corissa McClain, a teacher at Billy Lane Lauffer Middle School, and Sharon Speet, a teacher at Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic School, were presented the awards by Colleen Niccum, Missile Systems' director of community relations. Each of the Math Heroes' middle schools also received a matching \$2,500 grant.

McClain was nominated by RMS employee Monica Ortiz. Math Heroes may be nominated by students, parents, other teachers or anyone who witnesses a Math Hero in action. McClain and Speet were among 32 teachers nationally to be honored as Math Heroes for engaging students in math through interactive and creative learning initiatives.

McClain said she used her individual award to pay for her daughter's braces. Her school will use its \$2,500 on a portable whiteboard and cordless buzzers (similar to the ones used on the TV show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire"). McClain plans to give students the buzzers, where they can enter answers that she can see instantaneously.

McClain said the award was most meaningful because the nomination came from a parent (Ortiz), who was pleased by the way her daughter, Amanda, a sixth-grader in McClain's math class last year, was learning. "(Ortiz) was seeing the benefits of my efforts through her daughter," McClain said.

MathMovesU is part of an effort by Raytheon to increase middle school students' interest in math and science education by engaging them in hands-on, interactive activities. Raytheon is celebrating the

beginning of the 2010–2011 school year by awarding more than \$1 million in scholarships and grants. As part of its annual scholarship program, the company honors students who excel in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and the teachers who encourage them.

In addition to the Math Hero awards, a total of 150 students from across the country each received a \$1,000 MathMoves® Middle School Scholarship, with the option to save the money for college or to attend a math and science camp or technology program over the summer.

"Since the start of our MathMovesU program almost five years ago, Raytheon has awarded more than \$4 million in well-deserved scholarships and grants to students, teachers and schools nationwide," said William H. Swanson, Raytheon chairman and CEO.

"I want to congratulate all of our recipients and encourage students throughout the country to develop and sustain an interest in math and science as they prepare to pursue exciting careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in the years to come."

As part of the MathMovesU Bonus Award Scholarship program, Raytheon also recently awarded an additional \$20,000 each to 30 MathMovesU Middle School Scholarship recipients now pursuing undergraduate STEM degrees.