



**WESTCHESTER CHILDREN'S MUSEUM HONORS DR. BETTYE PERKINS  
AS OUTSTANDING WESTCHESTER EDUCATOR**

**PERKINS IS RECIPIENT OF INAUGURAL  
MILTON A. WILLIAMS Jr. SCHOLARS IN EDUCATION AWARD**

White Plains, April 1, 2009... **Dr. Bettye H. Perkins, Founder and Executive Director of Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers**, (TSTT), is the recipient of the inaugural Milton A. Williams Jr. Scholars in Education Award established by the Westchester Children's Museum. The award was created in partnership with Helen Williams, an educator herself and mother of actress Vanessa Williams, in memory of Milton Williams, a beloved music teacher, mentor and administrator for 43 years at the Alice E. Grady Elementary School in Elmsford. The purpose of the award is to recognize the invaluable role that teachers play in the lives of our children and honor an outstanding local educator. The award will be presented at the Museum's annual gala, April 4, 2009, at Grand Prix New York in Mt. Kisco.

Dr. Perkins founded Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers as a unique school-based mentoring program that recruits and trains culturally diverse and economically challenged high school students interested in pursuing a career in teaching. TSTT also provides financial assistance for participants to attend college, and places them back into their communities as teachers. Originally starting with just 7 students from 2 Westchester school districts, Dr. Perkins harnessed her enormous passion for helping young people and founded TSTT as a not-for-profit organization in 1998. With the support of school districts, colleges, corporations and communities, TSTT currently supports nearly 50 high schools and over 500 students in three states (Connecticut, New York and Virginia). Twenty partnering colleges have agreed to assist in supporting TSTT program graduates now serving as teachers and role models in their communities.

This annual award honors an outstanding educator that embodies the dedication and community spirit demonstrated by Mr. Williams. As a teacher, Mr. Williams touched the lives of over 10,000 children and demonstrated a strong commitment to the greater Westchester community. His daughter, actress Vanessa Williams has shown a deep commitment to children's education in arts and culture, and has been a longtime supporter of causes that provide educational opportunities and support for at-risk youth. Performing – and music in particular – was encouraged by her mother, Helen, and late father, Milton Williams. Vanessa Williams was recently elected a member of the Museum's Board of Advisors.

Dr. Perkins, an educator and former IBM executive, has spent the past 15 years developing and implementing educational programs to enhance the academic achievement of young people. She is the recipient of many awards and proclamations acknowledging her outstanding achievement in educational leadership, and her dedication to improving the lives of today's youths. The Westchester Children's Museum is in a campaign to raise the funds to build the museum at the historic landmark Bathhouses at Rye Playland. The Westchester Children's Museum will be a fully hand-on, full-service cultural and educational institution for children with their families, caregivers and schools.

**For Public information, call 914-421-5050**

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