

# Chicago Tribune

Breaking News, Since 1847

## Leading Educators A Class Act

May 27, 1987 | By Casey Banas, Education writer

For Scott Iliff, teaching chemistry at Glen Ellyn's Glenbard South High School means far more than opening students' minds to the composition, structure and properties of substances and the transformations they undergo.

"My courses are courses in logic, writing, inquiry and just doing fun things," he said.

A few of Iliff's students may go on to become chemists, but most teenagers from the area served by Glenbard South will go into other professions and become business leaders, doctors and scientists in other fields.

"I want them to learn through inquiry and be able to communicate what they have learned," he said. "They must be able to develop the critical thinking processes they will need throughout life."

Iliff, a teacher for 12 years, received a "Golden Apple" award as one of the 10 outstanding Chicago-area high school teachers. He also was chosen for the 1987 Academy of Educators. The selection, part of the second annual awards program, was made by the Foundation for Excellence in Teaching, a group financed by several private foundations to develop programs enhancing public respect for teachers and attracting students to the profession.

Each new fellow of the academy will receive a paid fall-term sabbatical to study at Northwestern University, a \$2,500 cash award and involvement in a professional-development seminar series.

Beyond that, the foundation, whose members include 32 area business executives and educators, is seeking to establish a cadre of superior teachers --10 each year--who will continue to work to enhance the teaching profession by participating in groups that help shape education policy.

The 10 educators named to this year's Academy of Educators were selected from 660 nominees.

The nine other winners are:

-- **Dominic Belmonte**, English teacher at York High School, Elmhurst, for 11 years. He advises the school's literary magazine and student council, and he and students built a replica of the Walden Pond cabin of author Henry David Thoreau.

-- **Margaret O'Hara Cain**, English literature and humanities teacher at Nazareth Academy, La Grange Park, for 10 years. "Most of my students will live to see their grandchildren, whose lives will extend into the 22d Century," she said. "What a frightening thought--what happens in my classroom this week may be carried as some kind of family aphorism into that distant time that I may never see."

-- **Hanna Goldschmidt**, mathematics teacher for 18 years at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. "As a teacher," she said, "I would like to impress upon my students the importance of being an independent thinker, of cooperating and communicating with peers and adults and of gaining respect and appreciation for all fields of knowledge--particularly mathematics."

-- **Dr. Nguyen-Trung Hieu**, social science educator at Clemente Community Academy in Chicago. He is founder and president of the International Association of Volunteers for Human Service and Leadership Development Inc., which has helped to resettle more than 1,000 Southeast Asian refugees in Illinois. "**Like a farmer who cultivates his land to feed the masses, I cultivate the young to lead the masses,**" he said.

-- **Ruth Nickelson**, English teacher at Maine West High School, Des Plaines, for 22 years. "I want my students to become effective

communicators," she said. "I try to teach them to think, to use the information in a new way, to apply it to solve a problem, to relate it to some previously discussed idea or concept and to draw a conclusion or formulate a hypothesis."