

Sample Nomination

Why should your nominee be named a Symetra Hero in the Classroom? What sets him/her apart at your school?

Emily is dedicated social studies teacher who has high expectations for all of her students and who provides the support to help them reach those expectations. She uses inquiry to engage her students in deep learning about the world and their place in it. Emily is passionate about student leadership that creates school unity and student empowerment. She has served as the ASB advisor for several years. She attends annual leadership conferences in order to learn more about growing leadership programs, and brings back knowledge and resources to use at our school. In order to build and grow a comprehensive leadership program at our school, she requested a student leadership class for the school. She is implementing the first year of this leadership class for 2016-2017 school year. Her vision for the class and leadership program is to help students believe in themselves as leaders so that they can serve as both school leaders and community change agents. This year, Emily is also taking the lead on developing leadership and personal development lessons for our building-wide student advisory program. All of Emily's work is informed by her commitment to improving students' lives and using student voice/feedback. In addition to academics and leadership, Emily invests in students' lives through athletics. Emily has coached gymnastics and swimming and is the current Cheer coach.

How has the nominee made a difference in his/her students' lives (give examples)?

Last year, a student at our school passed away after a football accident. Emily took the initiative to work with the district and school athletics director and facilities departments, and to get student voice, to plan the memorial for the student in the foyer of our gym. This work makes a difference in the lives of the students and community members at our school because they can see that their classmate and friend's memory lives on in a space that honors his memory.

While some leadership classes may be reserved for the top students, Emily's leadership class is inclusive. Students from a variety of backgrounds, interests, and skills are included in the class and are working together to grow their leadership skills and to improve our school. By making her classroom an inclusive space, Emily is not only impacting the lives of the students in her class as she nurtures school leaders and community change agents, but is also impacting the culture of the entire school. Emily is helping to create a school culture where all students can begin to believe in themselves and their capacity to impact the world, and know that, despite obvious differences, they can work together to make their school a better place.

Anything else to share?

Emily spends endless hours at the school nights and weekends and is willing to help out whenever needed – through coaching, supervision and collaboration with colleagues. Furthermore, our school has been recognized by Highline School district for our results on the state assessment for ELA (Smarter Balanced –ELA). As a member of the humanities team, Emily's work was integral in helping prepare the students to pass the assessment. Her dedication to providing the kids with feedback so they can improve their reading and writing skills is extremely valuable.