

Utah Teachers Shelley Liu and Betty Bleak Win the Golden Apple Award

Christensen & Hymas Gives \$100 Gift Card for Classroom Supplies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DRAPER, UT, October 25, 2012 – The School Supplies Gift Program, sponsored by Utah personal injury attorneys at Christensen & Hymas, is pleased to announce that **Ms. Shelley Liu**, a 1st grade teacher at Eastlake Elementary School, and **Ms. Betty Bleak**, a 7-9th grade teacher at Butler Middle School, are the next recipients of the Golden Apple Award.

Ms. Shelley Liu came from Taiwan to teach two Chinese immersion classes for a total of 52 first graders. She graduated from Taipei Municipal Teachers College and received the Bachelor of Arts and Crafts education in 2000. In 2005, she earned an M.A. degree in Teaching English as a Second Language from Arkansas Tech University; this is also where she has spent the last six years, teaching English.



Speaking English in a Chinese immersion class is forbidden, therefore, Ms. Liu must employ various other teaching methods that convey the day's lesson as clearly as speaking English. In order to do this, Ms. Liu prepares many pictures and visual aids, which can be costly. She also uses body language and gestures to help the students learn. Another resource Ms. Liu provides for her students is a helpful website: <http://shelleyliu.weebly.com>. The staff at Christensen & Hymas applaud Ms. Liu's dedication to education, especially for leading by example.

Ms. Betty Bleak (pronounced "Blake") has been teaching art at Butler Middle School for nineteen years, which she proudly calls her "home." She teaches Art Foundations I and II, Drawing, and 3-D. Her nominator says that Ms. Bleak teaches her students "that they are artists, which is the best lesson they can learn." Ms. Bleak's website (<http://butlerart.weebly.com/>) says, "I love art and I want your student to love art, too!"



Any art student or teacher knows that teaching art requires many supplies. Ms. Bleak's nominator explained that Ms. Bleak uses mixed media; she even teaches her students to work with clay. The many types of media used in an art class can get expensive; the staff at Christensen & Hymas understand this and would like to take the nominator's suggestion seriously when she said, "Additional supply money would enable Betty to broaden her students' experience even further." We recognize Ms. Blake's creative nature and thank her for her ability to teach creative and analytic thought to young students through art.

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About the School Supplies Gift Program:

Utah personal injury attorneys Ken Christensen and Russ Hymas, owners of Christensen & Hymas, started the School Supplies Gift Program to help public school teachers get extra classroom supplies without having to spend their own money. Each week the program gives the Golden Apple Award, which includes a \$100 OfficeMax gift card, to a deserving Utah public school teacher and his/her class. Anyone can nominate a teacher for this program, including teachers, students, parents and administrators. To learn more about the program and nominate a teacher, [click here](#).