

2004 League Apple Award Recipients

Dr. Kathleen Binkowski, *Superintendent of Plainville (CT) Community Schools*

Having engaged in an ongoing collaboration with The Bushnell Center in Hartford, Dr. Binkowski made it possible for participating high school students to study the novel *Ragtime*. Before attending the musical based on the novel at the Bushnell Center, students studied the text and discussed the relationships between American culture, democracy, and justice by looking at themes such as social and economic issues and immigration. Dr. Binkowski also developed a curriculum for music and drama students using *Show Boat* to illustrate that off-stage careers involved with the arts are just as important as the performers. This program featured lectures from staff members of the Bushnell Center who were working on a production of *Show Boat*, introducing students to the educational and training aspects of their jobs that were required for their individual careers.

Linda Succi, *House Leader and Assistant Principal, Edward Martin Middle School in East Providence, RI*

Linda Succi has worked continuously with the Providence Performing Arts Center for two years. She facilitated the participation of her school in the "From Books to Broadway" program in conjunction with the touring Broadway production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. Before seeing the show, students familiarized themselves with the storyline and studied the creation of the music. Cast members came to the school and discussed their touring experiences, educational background and how they prepare for auditions. Eighty students then attended *Beauty and the Beast* at the Providence Performing Arts Center.

Ida Rankin, *Elementary School First Grade Team, Mount Holly, NC*

Working in conjunction with the North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center last year, this team helped to introduce kindergarten through fifth grade students to the touring Broadway production of *Seussical: The Musical*. They developed programs that incorporated theatre education into their curriculum. The team designed learning programs that identified the rhyme scheme in Dr. Seuss' poetry and encouraged students to create their own Seuss-like poems. They worked with the students to incorporate drama, music, and movement into an original mini theatrical performed for the entire school.