

Distinctive Schools Educator Lindy Mandel Named INCS Elementary Teacher of the Year

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES, December 7, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Illinois Network of Charter Schools announced that Lindy Mandel, middle school teacher and instructional coach at Chicago International Charter School Irving Park, a [Distinctive Schools](#) campus, has been named Elementary Teacher of the Year! Mandel has been part of the Distinctive Schools network since its inception in 2011, and has been an exemplary, innovative teacher and instructional leader.

“Charter schools thrive on innovation and adaptability. With everything our community has gone through with the pandemic, we’ve still seen some of the most creative and thoughtful approaches to modern education in years,” explained Andrew Broy, president of INCS. “The 2022 winners of the Charter Excellence Awards embody everything that makes the charter public school community such a force for good. We are so proud of all they have done and will continue to do.”

Mandel has been part of the [CICS Irving Park](#) community since 2009, and has served in various roles from teaching assistant to director of operations to middle school educator and instructional coach. As an innovative practice leader, Mandel led the implementation of the Summit Personalized Learning Platform for CICS Irving Park, and served as a Summit Learning Lead, developing training modules for and introducing the platform to new Distinctive Schools teachers.

“Lindy has been an incredible asset for CICS Irving Park, and Distinctive Schools,” shared Chief Talent Officer, Sami Baugh, “her leadership and passion for education is exactly what her students, families, and colleagues respond to – she makes a lasting impact on all she encounters, and we are incredible grateful for her continued commitment to her students and Distinctive



Lindy Mandel (center) INCS Elementary Teacher of the Year with Scott Frauenheim , CEO of Distinctive Schools, Melissa Feinberg & JW Kuebler of CICS Irving Park, and Sami Baugh, Chief Talent Officer for Distinctive Schools

Schools.”

Mandel was nominated for the award by Peggy Diaz, CICS Irving Park Bilingual educator and parent, who has taught under Mandel’s mentorship with Distinctive Schools. On November 30, 2022, CICS Irving Park students and staff gathered in the school gymnasium for their weekly community meeting, time the school takes to connect as a community, discuss school events, and recognize students of the week. At the top of the assembly, Diaz stepped up to the microphone and spoke about her nomination.

“It is the unquantifiable that sets her apart. It is the kind and patient words. It is the determined spirit to make sure everyone learns, and the wholehearted investment to understand the feelings and situations of others,” said Diaz. She continued, “How do you measure a year in a teacher’s life? How about love? Love is exactly what makes this teacher [Mandel] excellent.”

Mandel was presented with the award along with a check for \$10,000, surrounded by her students, peers, and family members, and celebrated during the 2022 INCS Charter School Excellence Awards Reception on Monday, December 5, 2022 at the City View Lofts. Distinctive Schools is incredibly proud of Mandel’s success as an educator, a colleague, and a leader. This year, INCS received over 120 nominations for leaders, teachers, parents and students from across Illinois’ charter sector, which spans 137 schools throughout the state. As with years’ past, 2022’s nominations were fiercely competitive.

About Distinctive Schools

Distinctive Schools is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and accelerating the work of charter schools serving kids from historically marginalized backgrounds. The team includes passionate educators and determined leaders who innovate, trailblaze and collaboratively lead a public education transformation, as well as ensure that each and every one of Distinctive Schools students thrive in college, career, and life. To learn more, please visit <http://distinctiveschools.org/>.

About INCS

The Illinois Network of Charter Schools advocates for the improvement of public education by leveraging the charter school model as a catalyst to transform lives and communities. As the voice of Illinois charter schools, INCS engages a diverse coalition of policymakers, school leaders, parents, and community members to create systemic change and secure high-quality schools for underserved communities.

Molly Quinn

Distinctive Schools

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