

Music teacher at Saturn Elementary in Cocoa wins prize

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Joani Slawson, music teacher at Saturn Elementary in Cocoa and director of the Brevard Children's Chorus, was selected for the Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award. For FLORIDA TODAY

Written by
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Joani Slawson, a teacher at Saturn Elementary in Cocoa, is one of 50 teachers selected nationwide to receive the Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award and invited to participate in the Yale Symposium on Music in Schools this summer.

There were 330 nominees from 45 states with only 15 percent of them selected to attend the June 8-10 symposium, all expenses paid.

In addition to being music director at Saturn, Slawson also is the conductor of the nonprofit Brevard Children's Chorus and gives private voice lessons.

The Symposium on Music in Schools is conducted every two years at the Yale School of Music in New Haven, Conn., as part of the Music in Schools Initiative.

The music educators will discuss integrating music into the general classroom and the relationship between visiting teaching artists and public school music teachers.

There will a workshop with renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma, and participants will have the opportunity to attend a performance by Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble.

The Brevard Children's Chorus is an auditioned group of fourth-through 10th -grade singers in performing quality choral music. Membership is open to students involved in public, private, charter and home-schools. More information about the Brevard Children's Chorus is available on their website at www.BrevardChildrensChorus.org.

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