

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 11, 2024



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The Siena School Hosts 19th Annual Celebration

Siena honors dyslexia advocate and consultant Lorraine Hightower along with local key supporters

Silver Spring, Maryland, and Oakton, Virginia, October 10, 2024 — The Siena School held its 19th annual Fall Celebration and Awards Evening on October 10, 2024, in person for its growing campus communities in Silver Spring and Northern Virginia.

Each year, the Siena community celebrates school achievements and recognizes important contributions to both Siena and the wider field of dyslexia education. This year for its 19th annual celebration, Siena honored Dyslexia Advocate and Consultant [Lorraine Hightower](#) for her instrumental work in supporting LD students and their families in getting the services and support they need in school.

Hightower is founder of **Lorraine M. Hightower LLC**. Motivated by her son's experience with dyslexia, ADHD, and dysgraphia, she became a certified dyslexia advocate, working to secure structured literacy instruction and necessary accommodations for

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students. "I feel like I'm here with my people," she stressed. "There are so many bright kids who have dyslexia." Hightower shared how her professional advocacy work has deeply personal roots in her husband's and son's schooling experiences. As she told the audience, "Continue to identify and celebrate your strengths. Continue embracing your strengths."

In addition, Pastors Alex Harris and Carl Johnson of **Calvary Lutheran Church in Silver Spring** received Siena's Key Supporter awards. Silver Spring Head of School Katie Douglas thanked Calvary Lutheran Church for their "support and partnership" in opening Siena's Satellite campus, stressing the importance of early intervention in the LD community. "Calvary Lutheran has been a steady partner throughout this process," she added, "and we could not have reached our third and fourth graders without them."

Students, parents, and faculty and staff from Siena Northern Virginia gathered on campus to celebrate and watch the event via simulcast. "This is our premier community event," shared Head of School Jennifer Betts. "It's a joy to have our families and faculty and staff socialize as we come together to honor those who've made significant contributions to both Siena and dyslexia education more broadly."

[See here](#) for past Siena Cypress and Key Supporter awardees.

About The Siena School

[The Siena School](#), a leader in dyslexia education, serves bright, college-bound students with language-based learning differences. The school was established in 2006 in [Silver Spring, MD](#), where it currently serves students in grades 5-12 on its Forest Glen campus. The [Northern Virginia campus](#) serves grades 3-12, and the new [Silver Spring Satellite campus](#) serves 3-4.

Siena's staff and board of advisors include distinguished national, state, and local education leaders and professionals. Siena's program is designed for students with mild to moderate learning needs who are experiencing a discrepancy between their academic achievement and intellectual abilities in one or more areas such as reading, writing, oral expression, or math. For further information, visit www.thesienaschool.org.