



The Siena School Hosts 20th Annual Celebration

Siena honors clinical psychologist Dr. Anthony Henley, along with local key supporters

Silver Spring, Maryland, and Oakton, Virginia, October 17, 2025 — The Siena School held its 20th annual Fall Celebration and Awards Evening on October 16, 2025, in person on its Silver Spring and Northern Virginia campuses.

Community was a major theme of the evening, with each speaker highlighting the growth of Siena's own community over the past 20 years, as well as the school's important ties to the learning differences community both locally and nationally.

The 2025-26 school year is a dual milestone for Siena: it marks the 20th anniversary of The Siena School and 5th anniversary of Siena's Northern Virginia campus. As Executive Head of School [Dr. Jilly Darefsky](#) shared in her welcome remarks, "Tonight, we celebrate the strength of our community. A community that has, over two decades, remained steadfast in its mission to empower students with language-based learning differences."

Siena Board Chair [Erik Heyer](#) reminded the audience in his opening remarks: "A great school is a great community and a great community is a great school."

Two Decades of Excellence in Dyslexia Education

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This year's 20th annual [Cypress Leadership Awardee](#) was DC-area clinical psychologist [Dr. Anthony Henley](#) for his instrumental work in psychoeducational assessment, consultation, and more for children with dyslexia, learning differences, and ADHD. Henley is a past president of the [D.C. Capital Branch of the International Dyslexia Association](#) and has served on the national board of the [International Dyslexia Association](#).

Dr. Henley has supported The Siena School and its mission since it opened in 2006 and has long been a part of Siena's extended professional community. "One of the most important aspects of my career has been the dyslexia community," he noted in talking about his decades of consultancy and advocacy, reminding the audience to keep celebrating "the gifts that are often seen with our dyslexic students."

Siena's Key Supporter awardees for 2025 were also announced. Siena Board Chair Erik Heyer thanked all of Siena's Founding Families for their decades of dedication and instrumental help in helping open each Siena campus. Head of School Jennifer Betts thanked Kerry Fraser of the [Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax](#) for continued support and partnership with Siena Northern Virginia.

Siena's 20th Fall Celebration and Awards Evening took place in person at Siena's Forest Glen and Northern Virginia campuses. As is tradition, students, parents, alumni, and faculty and staff attended.

About The Siena School

Now in its 20th year, [The Siena School](#), a national 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 newer [Silver Spring 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.

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