



The Siena School Hosts 15th Annual Celebration

Siena honors Drs. Brock and Fernette Eide along with local key supporters

Silver Spring, Maryland, October 16, 2020 — The Siena School held its 15th annual Fall Celebration and Awards Evening on October 15, 2020, as a virtual event. This year's celebration also marks Siena's [15th anniversary](#), with events and commemorations to continue all year.

Each year, the Siena community celebrates school achievements and recognizes important contributions to both Siena and the wider field of dyslexia education. Annually, one individual or organization is awarded The Siena Cypress Leadership Award for significant and lasting contributions to the education of children and young adults with learning differences. Siena gave this year's Cypress Leadership Award to Drs. Brock and Fernette Eide, cofounders of [Dyslexic Advantage](#) and international authorities on dyslexia and learning differences. They have coauthored *The Dyslexic Advantage: Unlocking the Hidden Potential of the Dyslexic Brain* (2012) and *The Mislabeled Child: How Understanding Your Child's Unique Learning Style Can Open the Door to Success* (2006), among other publications.

Erik Heyer, Founder and Board Chair of The Siena School, presented Drs. Brock and Fernette Eide with the Cypress Leadership Award. Heyer noted that the Eides' two decades of work with the dyslexia community epitomizes The Siena School's mission to "uncover, celebrate, and nurture." In accepting the Cypress Leadership Award, the Eides stressed "the importance of finding educational environments like Siena to service students with different learning needs." Their message to the dyslexic community about understanding how their brains excel was clear: building on their particular strengths is key in achieving life success. They added: "Time really is on your side," reminding students that their skills, strengths, and "heightened insights" will develop as they continue their academic journeys.



Key supporters Eve Zimmerman and the [Department of Environmental Science and Technology](#) at the University of Maryland were also honored for their contributions to The Siena School. Zimmerman was recognized for her tireless and creative work as a Siena parent volunteer, particularly in hosting a jewelry fundraiser to support The Siena School Scholarship Fund. Dr. Jose-Luis Izursa of the University of Maryland accepted the Key Supporter award on behalf of his team, whose work in hydroponics and aquaponics supported Siena's annual [SciCon](#), a quarter-long project on a specific topic for middle school.

About The Siena School

The Siena School in Silver Spring, Maryland, serves bright, college-bound students with language-based learning differences, such as dyslexia. Siena's staff and board of advisors include distinguished national, state, and local education leaders and professionals. The school was established in 2006 and serves students in grades 4–12. 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. Siena delivers an individualized educational program featuring small class sizes, research-based instructional methodologies, a highly trained staff, and an educational environment specifically designed to meet students' unique needs, with a specific emphasis on the arts. For further information, contact The Siena School at (301) 244-3600 or visit www.thesienaschool.org.

About Dyslexic Advantage

Dyslexic Advantage is a support and consulting community for dyslexic students, parents, teachers, and other professionals; it has members throughout the United States and across the world. It aims to promote the positive identity, community, and achievement of dyslexic people by focusing on their strengths to achieve positive self-understanding, real opportunities to learn, and a positive vision for the future. Together with other dyslexia organizations, Dyslexic Advantage has provided critical research that has supported new dyslexia laws throughout the country, creating a new era of teacher training and student identification. Learn more about them at www.dyslexicadvantage.org.