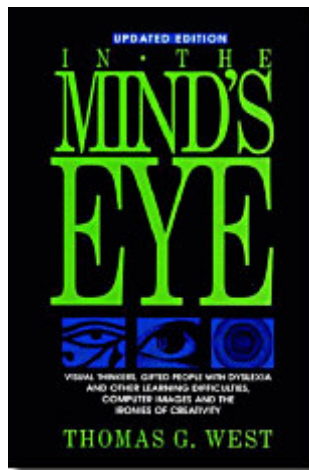


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## Siena Honors Pioneering Dyslexia Educator

*Thomas West, author of In the Mind's Eye,  
to receive annual Leadership Award*

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, October 11, 2010 – The Siena School “Siena” is honored to present Thomas G. West, author of the classic *In the Mind's Eye* with the 2010 Siena School Cypress Leadership Award. The annual Cypress Award was established to recognize individuals who have made exceptional and lasting contributions to the education of children and young adults with learning disabilities. Thomas West has been fundamental in asserting that dyslexics are unique, gifted minds and are capable of extraordinary success, a principle upon which The Siena School is built.

The 2010 Siena School Cypress Leadership Award will be presented to Thomas G. West at the Fifth Annual Siena Celebration on October 14th. The Celebration will be held at Imagination Stage in Bethesda.

Siena is accredited by Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and is an affiliate member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). Siena’s Advisory Board includes national educators as Katherine Merseth of Harvard University; Nancy Streim of



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Columbia University Teachers College; Lou Salza, head of Lawrence School in Ohio, and Margaret Harrington, chief operating officer of Victory Schools in New York.

Distinguished local educators on the Advisory Board include Abigail Wiebenson, retired head of Lowell School; William Stixrud, well known area psychologist specializing in learning disabilities, and director of William Stixrud and Associates in Silver Spring, Maryland; Claire Nissenbaum, founder and director emerita of the Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center, a nationally accredited training program for dyslexia teachers and tutors located in Rockville, MD; Robin Church of the Kennedy Krieger Institute; and Janet Wintrol, director of Ivymount School Programs in Rockville, MD. The Advisory Board also includes Matthew Moyer of National Geographic, one of the nation's rising young photojournalists.

### **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 to serve students in grades 5 – 9, and currently serves 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 the unique needs of our students. For further information, The Siena School can be contacted at (301) 592-0567 or on the web at [www.thesienaschool.org](http://www.thesienaschool.org).

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