

# Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

## James C. Kapteyn Prize Guidelines & Application

The James C. Kapteyn Endowment Fund was established in 2009 to honor the memory of James Cornelius Kapteyn, who dedicated his days and nights as a high school teacher to embodying the idea that, in the words of William Butler Yeats, "Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire." Jamie died on January 16, 2007 at age 45 while playing indoor soccer with friends and colleagues from Deerfield Academy, his alma mater, where for seven years he had been an English teacher, the sophomore class dean, a girls varsity soccer and boys varsity lacrosse coach, and a faculty resident in a boys' dormitory where he lived with his wife, Kirsten, of 18 years, and his two daughters, Ingrid and Ilse, Deerfield Classes of 2009 and 2012, respectively.

### **Vision and Eligibility**

The primary mission of the Fund is to honor Jamie's memory by recognizing and supporting educators, who, like Jamie, offer extraordinary gifts to their students. The Fund provides one or more annual Kapteyn Prizes to a public or private high school teacher who exemplifies excellence in an array of roles within their school community (i.e. teaching, mentoring, coaching, etc.) and exhibits outstanding character traits.

The Kapteyn Prize is awarded to candidates who are currently teaching grades 9 through 12, who have made a career commitment to high school teaching of at least seven years, and whose excellence in and passion for teaching and learning inspire their students to excel, in the model of the late James C. Kapteyn. Prize winners are individuals of exemplary character, integrity, and honor who lead by example and impart to their students a lifelong love of learning and dedication to personal growth.

The overarching priority of the Kapteyn Prize is to recognize "whole child teachers" who serve in multiple capacities within a school community. The concept of a "whole child teacher" builds from the so-called "triple threat" faculty model of traditional boarding schools in which classroom teachers from across the disciplines also serve as, for example, coaches, dorm parents, advisors, tutors and administrators, including people who work with students in the visual and performing arts and other special study programs. "Whole child teachers" mentor their students in several different school contexts, formal and informal, thus engendering deep, trusting bonds that enhance their ability to reach and guide the young adults with whom they work.

A Kapteyn Prize candidate must be first and foremost a classroom teacher who specializes in a curricular discipline, including those in the visual and performing arts, and technology and agricultural arts. A candidate must also serve in other important roles guiding students in their larger school community, for example, coaching, club or class advising, or being a dormitory parent.

Following nomination by a principal or head of school, applications will be invited from teachers in public or private schools in the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation region (Berkshire County, MA, Northwest Litchfield County\*, CT, Columbia and Northeast Dutchess Counties\*\*, NY) and Franklin County, Massachusetts.

### **Awards**

In 2012, up to \$10,000 in prize money will be awarded but only if there is a qualified applicant or applicants. The prize will be awarded without restriction as to its use. The recipient is solely responsible for any tax consequences arising from receipt of the prize payment.

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800 North Main Street, PO Box 400, Sheffield, MA 01257-0400  
t: 413.229.0370 f: 413.229.0329 e: [info@berkshiretaconic.org](mailto:info@berkshiretaconic.org) [www.berkshiretaconic.org](http://www.berkshiretaconic.org)

## **Deadline**

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation must receive applications for the Kapteyn Prize no later than 5 p.m. on April 1<sup>st</sup>. If the 1<sup>st</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline will be no later than 5 p.m. on the next business day. The prize winner will be notified no later than May 30<sup>th</sup>. All applicants will be notified of the committee's selection by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Review Process and Selection Criteria:**

The Kapteyn Prize selection committee reviews all applications and finalists are interviewed by telephone. The committee comprises of Kapteyn family members and area residents with demonstrated expertise in the field of education. Their recommendations are sent to the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation's Board of Directors for approval. The committee selects the candidate that best meets the vision of the fund and uses the following criteria in their review:

- Exhibits exemplary character, integrity, honor, and leadership.
- Stimulates and encourages early intellectual, athletic, artistic and/or other mature interests in their students.
- Teaches the whole child.

## **Questions**

Please contact Maeve O'Dea, program director, at [maeve@berkshiretaconic.org](mailto:maeve@berkshiretaconic.org) or 413.229.0370. More information about the Kapteyn Prize and Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation is available at [www.berkshiretaconic.org](http://www.berkshiretaconic.org).

\* Northwest Litchfield County: Bantam, Canaan, Colebrook, Cornwall, Cornwall Bridge, Falls Village, Kent, Lakeville, Lime Rock, Litchfield, Norfolk, Salisbury, Sharon, Taconic, West Cornwall and Winsted, CT.)

\*\* Northeast Dutchess County: Amenia, Clinton Corners, Dover Plains, Millbrook, Millerton, North East, Pine Plains, Stanford, Washington, Wassaic, and Wingdale, NY.)

## **To Apply, Please Send:**

- A completed application form.
- A letter of nomination from the school principal or head of school. This letter should address how the applicant meets the vision of the Kapteyn Prize.
- At least one but no more than three letters of recommendation from a current or past teaching peer with personal knowledge of the candidate's teaching abilities.
- At least one but no more than three letters of recommendation from a current or past student who has worked closely with the candidate in multiple areas of school life.
- A current, detailed resume or curriculum vitae. This should include specific dates, names of employers, job titles, and job descriptions.
- A written statement from the candidate (not to exceed one thousand (1,000) words) that, bearing in mind the mission and criteria of the prize, answers the question, "Why do you teach?"

At its discretion, the selection committee may request further information, including interviews of candidates and writers of reference letters.

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# Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation James Kapteyn Prize Application Form

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Please complete and submit this form with your application. Each school may nominate one candidate only.

Applicant School: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

When did you Start Teaching at This School?: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you Have Taught at Your Current School For Less Than Seven Years, Please List Other Schools Where You Have Taught, Including Dates:**

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Levels: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Levels: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Levels: \_\_\_\_\_

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Contact Information for Nomination Letter and Letters of Recommendation Attached.

**Nomination Letter:**

Name of Principal/Head of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Letter of Recommendation: (Peer)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Letter of Recommendation: (Student)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Eligibility:**

Please confirm the following:

- You have taught high school grades (9 through 12) in a full-time capacity for at least seven years
- You have been nominated by your Head of School and you are the sole nominee from your school
- You have not made a financial contribution to the Kapteyn Fund

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Do you Know Members of the Selection Committee (Listed Below)?:  Yes  No

If **Yes**, Please Explain the Nature of the Relationship:

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**By Signing This Application Form I State That, Should I Receive The Kapteyn Prize, I Am Willing To:**

- Serve a **five** year term on the selection committee
- Be present at the prize award ceremony during each year of my selection committee service
- Be present and speak at the 2012 prize announcement ceremony on Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 (location TBA).
- Be present and speak at the 2013 prize announcement ceremony (date TBA) about how I used the grant money.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The James C. Kapteyn Prize Selection Committee Members are:**

Lisa Baldwin (Kapteyn Prize Winner), Teacher, Monument Mountain Regional High School, Great Barrington, MA (Term 2011 – 2015)

Deron Bayer (Kapteyn Prize Winner), Teacher, Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Falls Village, CT (Term 2010 – 2014)

Molly Boxer, Executive Director, Berkshire Botanical Garden, Stockbridge, MA

Kirsten Kapteyn (Chair), Assoc. Director of Admissions, Bement School, Deerfield, MA

Charles Malcolm (Kapteyn Prize Winner), Teacher, Northfield Mt. Hermon School, Gill, MA (Term 2012 – 2016)

Samuel Prouty (Kapteyn Prize Winner), Teacher, The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT (Term 2011 – 2015)

Adam Reeves, Federal Prosecutor, San Francisco, CA (non-voting)

Megan Shea, Teacher, Choate Rosemary Hall, Wallingford, CT

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