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## Southfield and Northville educators named fellows for OU teacher advocacy program

Two metro Detroit teachers have been selected to take part in a newly launched teacher advocacy initiative at Oakland University. Monica Eason and Matthew Stetson are the first fellows of Galileo 3.0, an endowment **created with a \$50,000 gift** from former OU School of Education and Human Services Interim Dean Robert Maxfield and his wife, Sara. Eason and Stetson are alumni of the Galileo Academy, a well-regarded two-year teacher development program involving teachers from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

"Sara and I are delighted that Monica and Matthew will be our first Galileo 3.0 Fellows," said Robert Maxfield. "They are both outstanding teacher leaders who have made significant contributions to their respective school districts. We are confident that they will provide great leadership as we seek to reclaim and reframe the agenda regarding public education, with particular attention to the critical role of teachers."

Eason has more than 18 years of teaching experience and is currently a third-grade teacher at MacArthur K-8 University Academy in Southfield. She has been honored as a National Blue Ribbon Exemplary Teacher, Teacher of the Month and Life Changer of the Year nominee. She has also served on the Advisory Board Committee for the Galileo Institute for Teacher Leadership.

Eason earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the University of Dayton, a Master of Arts in Curriculum Development from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and an Educational Specialist Certificate in General Administration and Supervision from Wayne State University.

Stetson has taught English at Northville High School for 12 years and currently serves as department chair. He has also coached the school's boys varsity tennis and golf teams and was named regional coach of the year in both sports.

Stetson earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and Bachelor of Education from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, as well as a Master in the Art of Teaching from Marygrove College.

The only initiative of its kind in Michigan, Galileo 3.0 builds on the two-year Galileo Academy teacher development program. Teachers spend the first year, Galileo 1.0, studying their own leadership using the framework of Stephen Covey's book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. In the second year, Galileo 2.0, teachers focus on how their leadership can advance the goals of student and staff learning in their school and district.

Galileo 3.0 takes teacher leadership to a third level, according to Suzanne Klein, director of the **Galileo Institute for Teacher Leadership** at Oakland University.

"Monica and Matthew will build on their Galileo leadership experiences as they become spokespersons for the teaching profession and help the Galileo Institute support teacher leadership and systems change in schools and districts across Michigan. They will also weigh in on state legislative matters and policy initiatives, and mentor local teacher leaders."

Eason and Stetson also plan to serve as a critical friend for teacher leadership initiatives in the region, across the state and at the national through organizations such as **Teach to Lead**. In the summer of 2017, they will help the Galileo Institute host a teacher leadership conference at OU, celebrating the institute's 20th anniversary and setting an agenda for teacher leadership throughout the state.



**Monica Eason**



**Matthew Stetson**