Annual Elizabeth Rohatyn Prize Honors Innovative Educators by Erica Zigelman Principal

Experienced educator and past principal with the New York City Department of Education, Erica Zigelman earned a master of arts in education from New York University. In recognition of her service, Erica Zigelman was named a semi-finalist for the prestigious Elizabeth Rohatyn Prize.

Each year, school principals in New York City and surrounding areas have the opportunity to compete for the [Elizabeth Rohatyn Prize](http://www.teachingmatters.org/Rohatyn_Prize%E2%80%8E) from Teaching Matters. Principals may self-nominate or earn nomination from educator peers or parents. Prize winners receive a $15,000 award to implement programs to create an innovative learning environment that can serve as a model to others in the area.

To be eligible for the award, principals must have demonstrated significant achievement in attracting, growing, and/or retaining quality teachers. The multistep selection process includes a public vote to identify five finalists, followed by a final selection made by a panel of expert independent judges. Judges evaluate several criteria, including whether the school’s environment supports learning and promotes professional growth and whether practices are cost-effective and sustainable.

The Elizabeth Rohatyn Prize is just one program sponsored by Teaching Matters, an organization dedicated to increasing teacher effectiveness. Throughout its history, Teaching Matters has partnered with over 1,700 New York City area schools and provided programming to more than 1,600 teachers.