



The Education Foundation of South Brunswick Township, Inc.
2015 S. Brunswick H.S. – Distinguished Alumni Award

HONORABLE MICHAEL V. DOWGIN

Honorable Michael V. Dowgin, is an accomplished and well respected attorney and municipal court judge. He is a lifelong South Brunswick resident. Judge Dowgin graduated from South Brunswick High School in 1972. He completed his undergraduate work at Colgate University and obtained his law degree from Seton Hall University in 1980. He was admitted into the New Jersey Bar in 1980 and opened his sole practice in the Township in 1985. His practice focuses on commercial and personal litigation, He was appointed South Brunswick Municipal Court Judge in 1999, and is currently the presiding judge for the court.

His career has been distinguished with the care and compassion he has shown as an attorney and judge. As an attorney he has represented clients with no resources or means to have their voices heard. As a judge, he has a unique ability to show empathy while delivering justice. In the community, he serves as the coordinator for the Coach Nyitrai Heart Scholarship Award. This award is given out annually to one outstanding South Brunswick High School senior. His commitment and determination exists not only in the courtroom, but in athletics where he excelled in high school. In 2008 he was inducted into the South Brunswick High School Hall of Fame for his outstanding contributions as a football player. He has been part of the Princeton Athletic Club Rugby since 1977 where he previously served as president.

He and his wife, Cathy, reside in the Dayton section of the Township. They have two children, Laura and Ryan who are also graduates of South Brunswick High School.



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APRIL GONZALEZ

April Gonzalez began her journey in the South Brunswick School District forty-six years ago when she attended kindergarten at Cambridge Elementary School. During 5th and 6th grade, she served as a safety patrol, assisting other students in crossing the street safely. Her involvement beyond the school day continued in middle and high school, and included performing in school musicals both in middle and high school. She was a member of the chorus and girls' ensemble, played the French horn in the concert band, and was a twirler in the marching band.

Perhaps a future in education was destiny for this alum. When in high school, and during the days of CIPED, April returned to Cambridge Elementary School to work with students in Mrs. Pat Holiday's classroom. Later, when she was finishing her degree in English and Psychology at Montclair State College, this alum returned to SBHS to student teach in the English department.

In addition, to earning her bachelor's degree, April holds a Master in the Art of Teaching degree from Marygrove College and received certification in Supervision from The College of New Jersey. Her administrative license was obtained through the NJExcel program.

This 1982 alum has been an educator at South Brunswick High School for over twenty-eight years. She taught English and then supervised the English and Social Studies departments prior to becoming Assistant Principal. As a former graduate of South Brunswick High School, Ms. Gonzalez feels privileged to give back to the learning community that helped shape her into the educator she is today.