

2014 DPO Education Scholarship Reception Honoree Biographies Listed Alphabetically by School or Organization

Jo McClure (Athens History Circle)

Jo started her teaching career in Sigourney, Iowa in 1982 as a special education teacher at both the junior and senior high school level. She then moved to Oskaloosa where she also taught special education at the high school. During this time many students reported to Jo that they could not read materials for their classes, so Jo developed a program with many different reading curriculums to improve students' reading ability. It is this program which Jo brought to South East Junior High School in Iowa City. The program is based on individual attention by volunteers, student teachers and paraeducators. The adults have allowed each student to have one-on-one support at his or her level. The goal is to improve each student's reading ability to at least a 6th grade level. At this level, the student will be able to return to regular classes with newfound confidence and skill. Students also gain valuable skills for being in social situations with adults which helps them grow confidence and maturity.

This program has helped students very significantly for the past eleven years. The many volunteers also gain an insight into students' lives and the life of the school as well as the satisfaction that they are making a difference in kids' lives by helping them to become better readers. Jo's classroom is a joy to behold as students and adults work together to improve kids' reading levels and their futures. Jo McClure is an outstanding and innovative teacher who has made a huge difference in the lives of her students. She highly deserves this honor.

Mary Kampling (Borlaug Elementary School)

It is evident that Mary Kampling has a big heart for little learners. Mary started her teaching career with special-needs preschoolers in Maquoketa and Muscatine. She then made that big leap that would change her life. She taught kindergarten for two years in Medellin, Columbia, teaching in Spanish and English. Seeing all the needs and poverty among Columbia's children, Mary stayed for a third year, to adopt her daughter, Anna. Back in the US, Mary taught for two years in Albuquerque, and then headed back to Iowa. She got her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education at the UI, and settled in for a long stint in the Iowa City Schools. She taught kindergarten at Roosevelt Elementary, where she was quickly beloved by students and teachers alike. After 18 years at Roosevelt, Mary moved to Borlaug for two more years. Mary personifies the kindergarten teacher that every child craves: nurturing, comforting, wise, flexible, with a ready smile.

Anne Marie Kraus (Borlaug Elementary School)

This June will mark the end of a decades long career of Anne Marie Kraus, teacher librarian. She began her work with the Iowa City Community School District at Hills Elementary, and continued at Roosevelt and Borlaug. At the schools she served, she built commendable collections of books, with frequent book talks for the students and staff. She used a variety of techniques using music, puppeteering, and drama to engage students of all ages. Her skill with meaningful technology is inspiring and students leave well prepared with the computer skills they will need. Anne Marie has also invited interested students to come in at recess times as Techsperts. These students have an opportunity to extend their expertise with technology. Anne Marie has written much loved school songs for both Roosevelt and Borlaug, capturing the community of each. Anne Marie's skills with and passion for media will be greatly missed.

May Anciaux (City High School)

May Anciaux: May is a talented and dedicated member of the City High faculty. May wore multiple hats, finding great success as both a special education and family consumer science teacher. May is kind, caring, and finds ways to connect with each student. The tender loving care that May provides to her students helps them know they have an advocate at school, and helps them succeed. May has touched the lives of countless young people!

Susan Barrera (City High School)

Prior to joining the staff at City High School in 1993, Susan was a Teacher Corps/Peace Corps Volunteer (1974-1976) teaching school in Lackawanna, New York then Teaching English as a Second Language in Kabul, Afghanistan. She also taught overseas in bilingual schools in Bogotá, Colombia and Quito, Ecuador. In 1989-1990, Susan was awarded a teaching Fulbright Scholarship at the Universidad Nacional, Tegucigalpa, Honduras. In 1994, Susan earned her Ph.D. at the University of Iowa in Administration and Supervision.

Susan is a dedicated, strong Spanish teacher. With her amazing work ethic and vast knowledge, she has made sure that City High level one and two Spanish students build a strong base that sets them up for success in Spanish. Susan teaches her students far more than Spanish-- she promotes discipline, hard work, and strong student skills. Students love it when Susan shares stories about her beloved dog, Lacey. Lacey has become part of the City High family, as well, starring as "Toto" in the school production of "The Wizard of Oz", and marching in the annual Homecoming Parade each fall. With her teaching partner, Bonnie Hall, Susan led City High's annual Spain trip with great expertise.

Bernie Goepferd (City High School)

- ◇ Born and raised in Minnesota
- ◇ Nursing School in Minneapolis
- ◇ Married husband Steve in 1973 and moved to Okinawa where he was Stationed at Kadena Air Force Base.
- ◇ Volunteered for the Red Cross, Kue Army Hospital and Kadena AFB clinic
- ◇ Moved to Iowa City in 1978 and worked several nursing positions
- ◇ Head Start Nurse, UIHC Pediatric clinic, Ob-Gyn.
- ◇ Recognized for outstanding patient care at the University of Minnesota and the University of Iowa Hospitals.
- ◇ Have two daughters both graduates from City High, Angela 1995 And Leah 2001.
- ◇ Worked 15 years for ICCSD, the last 12 years managing the City High Health Office.
- ◇ Favorites: Family, Playing cards, Exercising, Quilting, Travelling And City High Staff and students.

Bonnie Hall (City High School)

Bonnie Hall received a BA and MA in Spanish Literature and Linguistics from UNI after having studied both in Mexico and Spain. Her first job was at Wilson Jr. High in Cedar Rapids. Then after 7 years at Iowa City West she came to City High in 1992 and has been here ever since! During her 35 years of teaching she studied again in Mexico and Central America and in 2000 was a Fulbright grant recipient to study indigenous peoples in Guatemala and Mexico. She was here for the beginning of the Honors classes in World Languages in the ICCSD and has developed the AP curriculum in Spanish Linguistics for City High. One of her most important achievements has been the successful completion of 22 teacher-led student study trips – 2 to Mexico and 20 to Spain!

Pat Herbert (City High School)

Pat lived in Freeport Illinois, home of the mighty Pretzels, and graduated from Northern Illinois University in 1974, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. She began her teaching career at Rochelle Junior High School in Rochelle Illinois teaching for 5.5 years until the birth of her daughter. After moving to Iowa City, Pat started substitute teaching in the Iowa City Community School District for a few years and was offered a part time position at West High teaching math. She has taught in Iowa City for 27 years, spending 20 years at West High and 7 years at City High School.

Her husband, George, of almost 40 years, is employed at the University of Iowa. They have a daughter, Kelly, who works for Cedar Rapids Medical Education Foundation. She and her husband Wyatt have 2 children, Owen (3) and Violet (2).

Pat is looking forward to spending more time with family, especially the grandkids, and taking some time to “do things on my own time”, travel, and pursue anything that interests her!

Greg Muilenburg (City High School)

Greg Muilenburg graduated from the UI in 1977 with his BS in Science. He received his MAT in Science Education in 1980. He is certified to teach all sciences (K-12) and has a permanent professional certificate, as well as his principal and superintendent certificates. He began his teaching career in the 1978-79 school year to fill a vacancy in the Science department at Regina High School in Iowa City. During his 3 1/2 years at Regina where he taught physical science and general science and coached Junior Varsity football. In 1982, he was hired to teach 9th grade science at NWJH and also continued coaching 9th grade football there. In 1985, he transferred to City High School. Throughout his years at City High he has taught physical science, chemistry, honors chemistry, honors physics and AP physics. He is proud to know that he has had several of his students go on to become outstanding scientists in their fields.

One of the most memorable moments in his teaching career was in 2003 when he was presented with the US Presidential Scholars Program Teacher Recognition Award by then First Lady, Laura Bush, along with his student, Kristen Lee, who was one of two US Presidential Scholars for the state of Iowa. At the presentation ceremony, Mrs. Bush read a story about Greg written by Kristen, reflecting on how he had helped shape her love of science. He has heard that from many students and parents over the years. Comments like those are what teaching is all about and makes the other mundane parts of teaching more tolerable. Greg has enjoyed his years of teaching and has many fond memories of his time at each of the schools he has been at and the colleagues he has had the privilege to work with.

Daryl Wagner (City High School)

Daryl started at City High in June of 1999. Daryl always worked hard, had fun with the students and always put in that little “extra”. Even though Daryl lived most of his life farming near Oxford, City High is his second home.

Daryl has always had a positive attitude and it spread to the other custodians and anyone around him. His work ethic is second to none. Daryl has made City High a better place in so many ways, and our school is deeply grateful to him!

Debbie Baird (Coralville Central Elementary School)

Coralville Central will be losing a very dedicated and devoted teacher when Debbie Baird retires. In her 32 years of teaching, Debbie has nurtured the learning of countless students. The Iowa City Community School District has been fortunate to have her for the last 17 years. Debbie first taught at Mark Twain Elementary in 1997 teaching 5th/6th grade. She has been educating 6th graders at Coralville Central since 2006.

Debbie has a true love for teaching. She cares for each and every student and is invested in their learning. Despite being a veteran teacher, Debbie puts in extra hours to prepare for class. She wants to be sure that all of her students get what they need.

In her retirement, Debbie plans to do some traveling with her husband, Mark. They look forward to visiting her daughter and her sisters, as well as relaxing on vacation. Debbie also hopes to do some volunteering in the community, and is excited not to have a schedule to live by every day.

Linda Cretzmeyer (Coralville Central Elementary School)

The Coralville Central Library will greatly miss Linda Cretzmeyer when she retires. While we are happy she can travel whenever she wants, students and teachers will all feel the void of her calm presence when she retires. Her level of patience is exemplary and something we can all strive for. Linda is always willing to listen and always willing to laugh.

Linda’s career began in 1991 at Coralville Central where she was an associate. In 1995, she went to Northwest Junior High as a faculty secretary. A few months later, she moved to West High where she worked in the Library. In 2003, Linda moved from one Library to another and began her time here at Coralville Central as the media secretary, the elementary school each of her children attended.

Linda is excited to spend time with her family during retirement, to walk her dogs, and to not have a schedule. Perhaps she will reread her favorite book, Lonesome Dove, as well.

Amy Lord (Coralville Central Elementary School)

Everyone here at Coralville Central will miss Amy Lord as the office secretary, or rather the “juggler of the craziness of an elementary school office.” Amy is a multi-tasker extraordinaire and deals efficiently with parent, student, and teacher questions coming at her from all directions.

Amy began her career with the ICCSD as a health associate at Wickham in 1999. Her experiences then took her to Roosevelt in 2001. Amy became the principal’s secretary at Kirkwood in 2003 and then Coralville Central was lucky enough to have her starting in 2006.

Amy truly loves spending time on her farm in Ainsworth with her husband, Charles, and their cats. Amy has a son, Steven, who went to Coralville Central, served in the military and is now back in the area. She also has stepchildren and grandchildren who she’s excited to spend time with during her retirement. Amy will not miss making the wintertime drive to Iowa City, and she’s most excited about occasionally sleeping in, and doing a little bit of traveling to see her sisters in California and Texas.

Sarah Shatzer (Coralville Central Elementary School)

Sarah Shatzer loves working with her students, and everyone at Coralville Central will miss her enthusiasm for teaching reading and the amazing job she does. The high expectations she sets for her students are met, her kids are motivated, and they look forward to working with Ms. Shatzer. We will miss the funny and sweet anecdotes she shares about her hard-working kids.

Sarah’s career in the ICCSD started in the year 2000 as a paraeducator at Kirkwood. She became a reading teacher at Horn in 2002. We have been lucky to have her at Coralville Central as our reading teacher since 2011.

Sarah and her husband will be moving east after her retirement and she is most excited about being closer to her son, who is in Philadelphia, and her daughter, who is in Boston.

Janet White (Coralville Central Elementary School)

Janet White has had an impressive 37 year teaching career and Coralville Central has been fortunate to have had her teaching our students for the final 27 of those years. Mrs. White has focused her career on early childhood education and has started 19 years of Coralville Central kindergarteners on a positive path of learning. She has a warm and structured classroom that is filled with encouragement and Clifford the Big Red Dog. At the end of each year Mrs. White puts together a memory book for each student, filled with samples of their work throughout the year and pictures from special days, not that many students will forget their year in Mrs. White’s classroom. Janet White has been an important part of the Coralville Central family, both during the school day and during PTO events, and will be sadly missed. The entire Cougar community wishes her the best and hopes she will come back to visit as often as possible.

Karen Bagby (Garner Elementary School)

Karen Bagby has dedicated 32 years to the Iowa City Community School District and ending her career in the district at Garner Elementary. Karen has worked throughout the area to help support physical education for our young students in Eastern Iowa. Karen had many proud moments but three that she specifically recalls is spear heading the character education program at Hoover Elementary and the school receiving a State Character Education Award. When she helped Garner Elementary receive the PE4Life Grant, and the performance of her 24 Garner Sport Stackers this year in a tournament in Quincy, IL. Karen shared that Garner is great because of the relationships between the educators, families, and the awesome Garner PTO. Karen will be greatly missed by the students at Garner, but she may actually miss them more because as she always states, "I love the kids."

Becky Ertle (Garner Elementary School)

Becky Ertle has dedicated 19 years to the Iowa City Community School District serving both Hills Elementary and Garner Elementary as a Guidance Counselor. Becky is married to Herbert and they have two adult daughters. Becky stated that I will miss working with the students, families and staff when we have those "ah - ha" moments when we're building on our strengths. And those are my proudest moments to share learning experiences with others. Garner Elementary has "respectful, responsible, and problem solving students," very supportive parents, and a caring and hard-working staff that make it a great place to learn. Becky's calm and experienced approach will be greatly missed by many of the students she works with on a daily basis.

Mary Rose Mazure (Garner Elementary School)

Mary Rose Mazure has dedicated 23 years to the Iowa City Community School District including 14 years at Penn Elementary, 5 years at Van Allen, and her final four years at Garner. Mary Rose has been married for 42 years to her husband Randy and they have four grown children and six grandchildren and she is looking forward to being able to visit them more often during retirement. Mary Rose shared that the opportunity she will miss the most is helping to develop the love of school and learning in her kindergarten students. Mary Rose stated that it has been an honor and a privilege to be part of Garner Elementary and the ICCSD, and calm and caring approach to teaching will certainly be missed.

Gina Campbell (Hills Elementary School)

Gina Campbell has taught for ten years and is in her second year of teaching a 1st/2nd grade combination at Hills Elementary. She has high expectations for all her students, which is reflected in their high levels of academic success. Many students come to her classroom as struggling readers and leave meeting grade level benchmarks. In her words, "I enjoy the constant problem solving that is involved in the day to day work of teaching. I love working with kids and finding new ways to help them be successful in school and life." Gina also is an avid runner and will be volunteering for her second season as a coach for Girls on the Run. She also volunteers in the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program. Hills Elementary is lucky to have a teacher like Gina who makes learning engaging, meaningful and a priority for all. We know she has many talents, and hope she continues to share them with our community.

Lisa TeBockhorst (Hills Elementary School)

With only two years under her belt as our school principal, Lisa, or Mrs. T, as the children often refer to her, is already leaving a positive, impressionable note on the community of Hills. A typical day will find her in classrooms, not only observing and giving input on teaching strategies, but interacting with the students. She also takes on instruction of some reading groups, being a strong example of a teacher-leader. She can be found in the lunchroom, always visiting with students. Any problem is handled with the utmost confidentiality and fairness. Her positive energy runs throughout all that she is responsible for which includes a good deal of district-level involvement. She is the district attendance officer for k – 12; she monitors the SINA supplemental educational services, she is on the child partnership with the Kennedy Performing Arts to assure that the arts are represented in our district; and she coordinates the Ginsberg Artist program. Being halftime principal of Hills and halftime coordinator for these district-wide programs is more than a fulltime commitment, but as always, every day, Lisa handles it with pride, conviction and a laugh and a smile.

Mike O'Leary (Hoover Elementary School)

Mike O'Leary's first experience with Hoover Elementary was being a student in grades 3 through 6 after his family moved to Iowa City. He went on to work as an elementary teacher for 12 years and eventually returned to Iowa City as an elementary principal. While working in the district he became involved in the creation of several elementary school gardens. This past year the opportunity to work for the district came up again and he served as the Hoover Elementary principal for six months in 2013. During that time he worked with John Rutherford, several staff members and some parents in creating Hoover's first garden. The fruits of everyone's efforts resulted in a tremendous learning experience for many of the students at Hoover this past year and the Hoover PTA is proud to recognize Mike for his contributions to Hoover.

John Rutherford (Hoover Elementary School)

John Rutherford has been an active Hoover parent since 2003. He and his wife, Kris Kluseman Rutherford, have Aaron at Hoover (Grade 4) and Claire at City High (sophomore). As a member of the PTA for more than eight years, you'll often see John volunteering at many PTA events. He has been on the Board of Directors for Hoover's before and after school program, Hoover On-Campus Care, since 2004. He spent several years as Hoover's World Language and Culture program coordinator and most recently he has been a part of a group of Hoover parents and staff who have initiated a vegetable garden and compost at the school. He also has coached the Hoover-based Kickers soccer teams from 2004 to 2012. The Hoover PTA is proud to recognize John for his contributions to Hoover.

Glenda Arganbright (Horn Elementary School)

Glenda moved to Iowa City from Nebraska with her husband Jerry, and daughters Jeni and Jill. She has taught at Horn Elementary for her entire career in Iowa City and is currently teaching 2nd grade. She has touched many and will be truly missed!

Dee Aupperle (Horn Elementary School)

Dee graduated from the University of Iowa in 1975 with a double major in Elementary Education and Special Education. She started her first job in a special education classroom in Washington, Iowa. She taught there for three years before subbing a year in Iowa City. She then started in the Iowa City Community School District in 1979 at Horn Elementary. In her 35 years of teaching, she has taught 4th /5th, 4th grade and 3/4th multi-aged. She is married to her husband, John and has one son Nick. Her love for teaching and children will be truly missed!

Judith Jensen (Horn Elementary School)

Judith graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in Early Childhood Education. She then went on and received her Masters in Social Work from the University of Iowa in 1994. She started in the Iowa City Community School District in 1996. Throughout her career, she has taught Kindergarten at Hills, Lucas and Horn and served as the District Health Coordinator for two years. She has also taught adults and provided mental health services to individuals of all ages. She has a daughter, Elisabeth and many grand puppies. Judith has touched the heart of many!

Cheryl Neely (Horn Elementary School)

Cheryl received her degree in education from Georgia State. She then went on to receive a Masters in BD and LD from the University of Iowa. She joined the Iowa City Community School District in 1998 where she taught Behavior Focus for three years at Coralville Central. She then went on to teach Resource at Longfellow, Lincoln, Mann and Horn Elementary. She has four stepchildren and five grandchildren that she is looking forward to spending time with in retirement. Her passion for teaching will be missed.

Chris Fausch (Kirkwood Elementary School)

Chris Fausch's thirty two years of teaching experiences vary from elementary, to secondary and university levels. She started her teaching career in Victoria Australia as a Junior and Senior High English teacher. She established a remedial migrant English program there. Her next stop was in Waterloo Iowa where she spent a year teaching elementary and intermediate school English Language Learners. She moved on to Coe College where she taught Japanese students preparing to attend American universities, then to UNI, followed by Kirkwood Community College and the University of Iowa to continue teaching college aged English Language Learners. She came to the Iowa City Community School District in 1994 and taught ELL at Longfellow and Weber before coming to Kirkwood Elementary.

She received her BA and MA degrees at the University of Northern Iowa. She has been a member of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages. She has presented at state and regional workshops and been published numerous times in the MIDTESOL Newsletter. In her 17 years at Kirkwood, she has taught students from 41 different countries! What a far reaching impact she has had.

Morris Stole (Kirkwood Elementary School)

Morris Stole began his teaching career in Lone Tree after graduating from Iowa State University. He taught grades 3-6 and 8th grade language arts and keyboarding for his first ten years of teaching. He returned to school for his counseling degree and elementary certification at The University of Iowa. He piloted the first year of the elementary guidance program in Lone Tree. He then was hired by West Des Moines schools. During his year there, he helped develop and coordinate their conflict management program. He joined the staff in Iowa City as an elementary school guidance counselor in 1991. He has been the guidance counselor at Kirkwood Elementary for twenty four years. During that time he has chaired the curriculum review committee and the guidance advisory committee and served as a member on numerous other committees. He has served as supervisor to multiple counseling interns. He was the district counseling coordinator for fourteen years. He created the Kirkwood Cadre, a group of students trained to welcome new students to the school, and has continued to supervise and train students each year. We congratulate him on an amazing 35 year career supporting our youth and wish him the best for his retirement!

Ruth Dane (Lemme Elementary School)

Lemme Elementary School would like to honor Ruth Dane, who is retiring at the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

Ruth Dane is currently a 4th grade teacher at Helen Lemme Elementary School. She has worked in the Iowa City Community School District since 1985. She has had experiences teaching: Title One, 1st/2nd grade, 5th/6th grade and 3rd/4th grade. She has taught at: Twain, Hills and Lemme.

Ruth Dane has many qualities that make her SHINE.

Her colleagues would describe her as:

- *Having an outstanding and positive attitude
- *Always seeing the best in everyone
- *Having a great sense of humor
- *Enjoyable to working with
- *Willing to volunteer with happenings at Lemme as well as in the community

Ruth Dane's unconditional hard work and dedication to the students in the Iowa City Community School District is immeasurable.

Simply put Ruth Dane is a kind and compassionate educator who will be missed by all!

Deb Cheney (Lincoln Elementary School)

Deb Cheney has worked in the Iowa City schools for the past 30 years. She started teaching 2nd then moved to 6th grade at Grant Wood Elementary before becoming a MARS (Math Area Resource Specialist) for ICCSD. She was a founding member of the MARS team. As a MARS, she generously shared her primary math expertise. Deb also worked for GWAEA as a Math Consultant where she supported school districts throughout Eastern Iowa. Most recently she served Lincoln Elementary as their Instructional Coach.

In her spare time, Deb enjoys spending time with her sons. Ted lives and works in Iowa City. Next fall, Andrew will likely be the starting quarterback for the University of North Texas. Deb plans to frequently travel to Texas to cheer him on. Her fellow retired teachers will be happy to spend more time with Deb in her retirement. We will miss her dearly!

Jamie Henze (Lincoln Elementary School)

“Keep Calm and Secretary On!” is one of Jamie Henze’s favorite mottos. Jamie has been the Principal’s Secretary at Lincoln for 5 years and was previously the building secretary at Wickham. Each day she carries out her many duties with a sense of humor and a cheerful smile. She balances roles as nurse, weather reporter, singer, bingo announcer, PowerSchool genius, secretary, and customer service representative. Jamie serves a role model of hard work, effort, and perseverance to our students. She also wears many hats outside of work as a coach, friend, mentor, and most importantly Mom to her three daughters, Marissa, Brooke, and Raina, and wife to her husband Chris. Prior to joining the ICCSD, Jamie was a Hall of Fame tennis player at Northwest Missouri State where she was a double major in Public Relations and Speech Communications, a teacher, recreation director, and day care provider. Congratulations, Mrs. Henze!

Yukiko Hill (Lincoln Elementary School)

Yukiko Hill is a model of professionalism and effective teacher practice. She always takes the lead, and works above and beyond each day to ensure that every child receives the best educational experience possible. Yukiko has been a leader in the All School Projects the last two years at Lincoln. Yukiko was awarded a highly competitive fellowship with NASA, and is working to earn a STEM certification from Teachers College at Columbia University in NY. As part of this fellowship, Yukiko travels to cities and states to both present and learn more about integrating science, technology, and math.

Yukiko is taking a three year formative assessment class with other professionals in the district to ensure students make stronger gains in science as a result of her reflective assessments. Yukiko teaches a Stem class to third graders after school on Fridays, and is Lincoln’s science advocate. Yukiko is also working toward National Board Certification. Yukiko is principled, kind, honest, and puts children in the forefront of all she does. We would like to honor her hard work and dedication to her field.

Mary Margolin (Longfellow Elementary School)

Mary came to Longfellow in December of 2002. She was hired as a special education paraeducator and has maintained that role for the past 12 years. She is an individual with high standards and great expectations. Mary is continually looking for ways to improve herself and more importantly, her students.

Mary’s strong educational skills have been one of her greatest assets – the learning environment she has helped to create in various Longfellow classrooms is outstanding. Her sense of humor and wit are appreciated by peers and anyone visiting the classroom can see how much she enjoys and truly cares about our community.

Over the past six years, I have had the pleasure of working alongside Ms. Margolin. I have observed many times when students have found new learning with the support of Ms. Margolin. Mary, thank you for everything - we will all miss you dearly.

Dee Sedlacek (Longfellow Elementary School)

Leaving her footprints on the shores of just two Iowa City schools, Dee Sedlacek has been a pillar in the Longfellow community for over 10 years. With two sons of her own and countless students who've learned from her, she is an educator at her very core. Always improving her own learning and knowledge of education and children, Dee has provided us all; teachers, parents, and students alike, with new perspectives on what we do, what we say, and how we interact with one another.

When she's not in the classroom assisting students, she can be found working with individuals or small groups of children around the building, helping in the office, or outside on the playground. Whether it is a student that needs a band-aide or a soccer net that needs repair, Dee is always willing to help. She truly has a heart of gold and is the Integrity in our Longfellow PRIDE. For all she has done and all that she is, Mrs. Sedlacek is appreciated by our community more than she will ever know. Thank you, Dee.

Barb Fleckenstein (Lucas Elementary School)

Barb was born and raised in Beverly, Ohio. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania, and Master's degree in Mental Health Nursing from the University of California San Francisco. Barb is currently past-president of the Iowa School Nurse Organization.

Barb worked in various mental health settings prior to coming to the school district in 2001. She worked as a part-time school nurse in the ICCSD from 1997 to 2001, when she took a full-time school nurse position. Since 2001, Barb has been a school nurse for many buildings. Most recently, she has been the school nurse for Lemme, Lucas, Tate High School, and Transitions Services Center. Barb goes above and beyond for students, parents and staff. Healthy students are optimal learners, and Barb works diligently to ensure that students' health needs are met and parents have access to resources. Barb also ensures the educational resources and training for the people that she works with by offering online education and doing staff education on site. Barb is a valuable member of her building's educational teams. In addition to being a skilled nurse, Barb loves children!

Maura Quaintance (Lucas Elementary School)

Maura Quaintance taught in the Moline Public School District before moving to Iowa City. When she moved to Iowa City she taught special education at City High School. Maura was a resource teacher at Roosevelt Elementary School until the 2012 school year. Maura also taught resource at Lucas Elementary School for two years.

Ann Robinson (Lucas Elementary School)

Ann worked at Penn for 12 years, and has been at Lucas Elementary for the last two years. She performed a variety of jobs over the years from recess and lunch duty to supporting students with special needs and helping classroom teachers. She especially enjoyed working with kindergartners. She was always willing to do whatever was asked and added a fun spark of life to the community.

Robert Cornell (Mann Elementary School)

Most Thursday mornings at 7:45 a.m. you can find Rob Cornell teaching the art of chess to students 3rd through 6th grade in the Horace Mann Chess club. It was his own boyhood love of chess that prompted Rob to start the club six years ago. It has grown in popularity and gained enthusiastic support from parents, some of whom volunteer and work with the younger children kindergarten through 2nd grade. “Rob not only teaches the skill of chess- his students develop a love of chess. He teaches kids how to be good competitors through chess, but they also cultivate lasting friendships,” said one Mann mom.

“Mr. Cornell encourages kids,” said a Mann student. “When I was 8, Mr. Cornell had a chess board at the ice-cream social. I wanted to sign up for chess but I didn’t know if I could play. Mr. Cornell encouraged me. He chanted ‘Stay and play! Stay and play!’”

Rob has taken students to the Weber chess tournament each year leading them to two 3rd place tournament victories. At the end of this school year, Rob and his wife Susanna Strode’s 11 years as Mann parents will come to a close.

Tim Kemp (Mann Elementary School)

Tim Kemp goes above and beyond to create memorable experiences for the students at Horace Mann. “Mr. Kemp makes learning interesting and fun,” said one of his students.

Mr. Kemp takes sixth grade classes on an overnight camping trip as a part of Mann Outdoor Education and documents the outdoor experience for families in a beautiful video.

Mr. Kemp helped organize an ambitious community-building project that included every student at Mann. A whole-school lip dub, a sort of music video, was produced and viewed by the school community.

Mr. Kemp collaborated with his colleagues to arrange for students to interview residents of Ecumenical Towers as part of MLK Day, and then turn the interviews into a collection of biographies.

In addition to teaching, Mr. Kemp is the mayor of Hills. Last spring, when flood waters washed out a bridge and partially inundated the town, Mr. Kemp kept his students up-to-date on the flood and talked with them about community management.

The students and families of Horace Mann are very fortunate to have such an inspiring and dedicated teacher as Mr. Tim Kemp!

Brian Dalton (North Central Junior High School)

Brian began his career in education as a junior high English teacher in Onawa, Iowa. He then took a teaching position at Fort Dodge Senior High School in Fort Dodge where he taught and coached for several years. He then opened and operated a printing business for the next 20 years. He sold his business and went to Florida with his wife, Jeane. The couple relocated to Iowa City where Brian took a position at Northwest JH as a para-educator. After 6 years at NW, he came to North Central JH at the start of its second year where he’s been ever since. Both Brian and Jeane, a retiring West High special educator, are taking a hard look at returning to Florida. We wish them both the best.

Sandy Wilson (North Central Junior High School)

Sandy was originally employed by the Iowa City Schools as a Language Arts teacher at Central Junior High many years ago. She moved to Des Moines with her family where she taught in West Des Moines for several years. Sandy returned to the Iowa City area through Regina. During that time she had an epiphany, and decided to take a job at North Central Junior High where she has been the past seven years. It's been such an outstanding experience that she's decided to retire as a Knight. Sandy has also been the Knowledge Masters sponsor during her 7 year tenure at North Central. There are students throughout the area that can hammer grammar and write persuasively because of her instruction and influence. Sandy will be heading back to the Des Moines area with her husband, Bob. She will be greatly missed at North Central, especially by her fellow Cyclones.

Peer Saleem (Northwest Junior High School)

Peer Saleem has been a dedicated advocate for chess at every level. He is a knowledgeable player, an encouraging coach and a tireless organizer for youth chess tournaments. The past two years, Peer has been the driving force behind the Northwest Chess Club. Peer comes to school each and every Friday after school to coach two dozen NW students. Not only have the students become engaged in the intellectual challenge of the game, but some of them have also competed on the highest levels in national chess competitions. This year, Peer led the charge to the Iowa Chess Championships held here at Northwest where local students took home most all of the hardware. NW thanks Peer for all of the time and expertise he has devoted to our students in their pursuit to become better chess players and better thinkers.

Gregg Shoultz (Northwest Junior High School)

Dr. Gregg Shoultz is very deserving of DPO recognition. His leadership style empowers those lucky to be on his team because he promotes the desire, flexibility, and discipline needed to always do your best. He is also a role model for every parent, teacher, and administrator in the ICCSD; his dedication to our community and the children we serve is second to none. If there is an event with his students participating, he is there to capture and display the moment. Dr. Shoultz's late night concert uploads to YouTube or his final touches on the video for the Spirit Assembly, proves not only his tireless devotion to his position as NWJH Principal, but also to the families he serves. What child wouldn't feel special to look up after their momentous occasion and see their proud principal, camera in hand, capturing their moment?

Jill McKay (Penn Elementary School)

Jill began her first teaching job in Illinois in 1978 at the elementary school she, her mother and her grandmother had all attended. She began teaching at Penn in 1982 and had taught every grade level except kindergarten before landing in 3rd grade to finish her career. One of Jill's passions, and gifts to our community, has been to bring the world to Penn students through a program she and a former colleague developed, called Passports. "Passports" consists of a monthly after-school opportunity for students to get an international experience as presenters come and share about their native country with our students. Jill has made the world and learning more accessible to Penn students. And now she looks forward to time to spend with her family and more traveling with her husband, who is also retiring.

Theresa Mitchell (Penn Elementary School)

Theresa was born and raised in Muscatine. She benefitted from having parents who valued education. Jan graduated from UNI and then spent 11 years teaching first in Davenport for 2 years and then in Idaho before coming to ICCSD in 1987. She began her ICCSD career at West High before moving to Penn Elementary. Theresa has taught special education, 1st grade, fourth grade and third grade. She has been a “constant force” at Penn for many years as an eager learner, a diligent worker and a teacher who has been committed to the success of students of all ability levels.

Jan Tschantz (Penn Elementary School)

A native of Minnesota, Jan moved to Iowa to attend Luther College. After graduating, she taught K-12 Music Sioux City for five years later. She then married her husband Michael and moved to Iowa City to raise their two children, Luke and Molly. Her second job was teaching 7-12 Choral Music for Highland High School in Riverside, where she stayed for 15 years. For the last 13 years, she has taught Elementary Music for our ICCSD, teaching at Hills, Lucas, Horn, Wood, Penn, and Weber. At Penn, we have appreciated her cheerful spirit, flexibility and love of music and kindergartners.

Julie Eisele (Shimek Elementary School)

Julie Eisele has been a very active participant at Shimek School for 15 years. Julie has served two terms as PTO Co-President, and she is always visible at school events such as the Carnival and Dance Marathon. Julie is especially known for organizing meals for teachers during conferences, and planning delightful surprises for Teacher Appreciation Week. Julie has also been active in DPO for many years, and she serves an important role in sharing information, being a link to City High School, as well as being an advocate for legislation and decisions supporting education. Julie has been instrumental in supporting Shimek School in so many ways. We thank her for all of her years of service, and wish her the best as she moves on to new endeavors as her youngest child begins at South East next school year.

Margaret Stolpen (Shimek Elementary School)

Margaret Stolpen has been involved as a parent at Shimek School during her son’s seven years as a student. Margaret has served in various PTO roles. During the past two years, Margaret has been a PTO Co-President. Margaret has worked with the business office at the ICCSD and other PTOs to initiate the 501c3 status of the Shimek PTO. Margaret has also led the Shimek Stars on Stage event, and worked with Shimek students on making blankets for charity. Margaret is probably best known for her amazing recipes, which she frequently contributes for Teacher Appreciation Week and conference meals. Shimek School thanks Margaret Stolpen for all of her support and work over the years.

Mike Reeve (South East Junior High School)

This is my 17th year at South East Junior High, the 33rd year of teaching. I currently teach Keyboarding, Computer Applications, and Applied Tech. In the past, I also taught Media, Drama, and Leadership, as well as being a boys' basketball coach, student council sponsor, union building representative, and multiple committee member for several years.

Prior to South East, I taught in the Edgewood-Colesburg, Clinton Mater Dei, Solon, and North Linn districts. While at those high schools, I coached football, volleyball, basketball, track, baseball, and softball.

I live in Solon with my wife of 34 years, Shelley, and two sons: Brian, 28, and Zach, 22. While at Solon, I've coached several youth sports and was a Solon Athletic Booster and Spartan Wrestling Club officer for 15 years. In my spare time, I play saxophone in a 10-piece classic rock band, golf, and currently serve on the Solon Beef Days committee.

Rose Shultz (South East Junior High School)

In my 32 years of teaching, I have found that being a teacher is forever changing, never boring, and an opportunity to be creative. Teaching has allowed me to contribute what I've learned and pass it to future generations. Seeing information increase exponentially over the years, I have prioritized teaching basic skills and tried to facilitate the love of learning. Special Education has been my life and I will always cherish each of their individual successes.

Mark Twain Elementary Teachers (Twain Elementary School)

The Mark Twain Elementary PTO nominates the Twain Teaching Staff, who assume extraordinary responsibilities in the course of their everyday work, and who do so with professionalism, commitment, and empathy. Twain teachers have the insight that is needed to see where a given student is in his or her learning path, the desire to meet them there, and the skill necessary to find the steps that suit their student's feet and to smooth the ground as they walk forward. Some of our students may arrive hungry and sleepy. They may not have the material comforts that many of us take for granted. But, within the walls of the school, they all encounter teachers who work tirelessly and selflessly to let each and every student know the greatness that is their potential, and to let each and every student know that they are indeed full members of a responsible, respectful, caring community.

Phyllis Urban (Van Allen Elementary School)

Phyllis Urban started her career as a P.E. teacher and coach at West High School in 1971. She was involved in many activities including Pep Club, Cheerleading, Girl's Gymnastics, Girl's Intramural, Volleyball, and Track. She also taught at Lincoln, Mann, Hoover, Penn, and North West and currently teaches at Van Allen Elementary in North Liberty. Phyllis is passionate about taking on projects to benefit students and community organizations. At Van Allen she organized a "Walk, Run" Club at recess, the Run for The Schools Torch Run, and Jump Rope for Heart. Phyllis always thinks about students first, and wants them to be safe and successful in life. Whether it's teaching an individual student to ride a bike, donating items to families, or getting kids to school in a safe manner, Phyllis truly cares about her students and community. We at Van Allen feel honored work alongside her and will truly miss her! Phyllis, we wish you the best in your retirement and look forward to seeing you at local sporting events as you continue to volunteer your time. Good luck!

Diane Clark (Weber Elementary School)

Diane Clark went to the “OTHER ” U Of I in Champaign, Illinois and she taught many different grade levels. She moved every couple of years for her husband’s education, so she had experience teaching first, third, fourth, and sixth. When she started her family she began substitute teaching. Diane learned about Reading Recovery in 1992 and was able to get training in 1995. She came to Iowa for the second time in 1998 and have been doing Reading Recovery for 16 years. Her teaching career spanned 27 years between Illinois and Iowa. In her retirement, Diane is looking forward to becoming a grandmother this summer and hiking, gardening, bike riding and reading lots of novels. She also plan to volunteer at Weber because working with children is still very important to her!

Peg deSalme (Weber Elementary School)

Peg is a loyal Hawkeye fan, having lived in the Iowa City area most of her life. She attended the University of Iowa, where she studied flute and graduated with a degree in music education. Peg has spent 37 years teaching instrumental music at all levels in four different school districts--Eastern Allamakee, Durant, West Branch and Iowa City. She was also a high school volleyball coach during her time at Durant. Peg has enjoyed teaching at Roosevelt, Wickham and Weber elementary schools during the last 13 years. She looks forward to volunteering, travelling with her husband and spending time with her family upon retirement.

Jan Tschantz (Weber Elementary School)

A native of Minnesota, Jan moved to Iowa to attend Luther College. After graduating, she accepted her first teaching job at Anthon-Oto (near Sioux City) where she taught K-12 Music. Five years later, she married her husband Michael and moved to Iowa City to raise their two children, Luke and Molly. Her second job was teaching 7-12 Choral Music for Highland High School in Riverside, where she stayed for 15 years. For the last 13 years, she has taught Elementary Music for our district, teaching at Hills, Lucas, Horn, Wood, Penn, and Weber. Jan will be greatly missed in our music program.

Jeane Dalton (West High School)

Jeane started teaching elementary art 30 years ago in Manson Iowa. Her two daughters were in her art class; one took her art seriously and always did her best while the other tried to finish up her art projects as fast as she could so she could draw whatever she wanted- the perils of teaching your own children! Jeane then substitute taught in Fort Dodge and realized she liked working with special needs students so earned a Masters in Special Education along with an endorsement in Guidance. Jeane taught special education for 8 years at Fort Dodge Senior High and was also a high school guidance counselor. She is now finishing her 13th year at West High as a special education teacher, which she has enjoyed very much. Jeane wishes she would have kept a journal of all the light hearted, unexpected comments of students over the years. One comment a few years ago stands out; this particular student told her, “If you make me do one more assignment this period, you are going to suck all the joy out of me.” And he was dead serious... Jeane has seen this student several times since he graduated working at HyVee and he always stops and visits with her, so he must have survived that day without being too traumatized. Next year Jeane is going to spend more time with her grandchildren and family along with possibly volunteering at school and her church.

Renato deLeon (West High School)

Renato has worked as an educator since 1976. When he first started, he was very involved with the teachers association at the state level, and the counselors association at the national level where he typically sat on boards to promote minority issues within the profession. He started in Iowa City as a counselor at Central Junior High and when Central closed Renato worked at CEC (now Tate). He was also coordinator for the district's ESL program. Renato next transferred to West High where he was Dean of Students for 5 years and then West High guidance counselor and department chair. In retirement Renato would love to travel and go new places he hasn't seen before. He and his wife like camping and hiking so plan to visit all of our national parks.

Cathy Deschenes (West High School)

Cathy Deschenes has worked for the past 36 years as a special educator in several different parts of the country including New Hampshire, Minneapolis, Indiana and for the past 20 years in the Learning Center at West High. Cathy is looking forward to having some free time to consider new opportunities.

Rhonda Halvorsen (West High School)

Rhonda taught Family and Consumer Science at Mid Prairie for 20 years and then at West High for 19 years which is a grand total of 39 years spent educating teenagers! She graduated from West, as did her siblings, kids, and grandkids. It's a great place to be a student and a teacher. She still has four younger kids at home who will attend West, so in retirement Rhonda plans to either teach or work for human services part time, and enjoy the "stay at home mom" life style for a change. Eventually she hopes to live on the beach some place down south.

Liz Dodge Lechko (West High School)

Liz started her teaching career in Nebraska in a small school with only 400 students K-12. After learning the ropes she moved to Adel, Iowa and taught for 17 years. Then in 2002 she made the move to Iowa City to teach English at West High School. After 34 years in the classroom she is retiring to work on her health issues and take care of a new grandchild due in July. Liz is also excited at the prospect of having time to catch up on all the books she wants to read.

Gwen Montag (West High School)

Gwen has worked at West High School for 19 years as a special education Learning Support Teacher. Prior to coming to Iowa City, she taught elementary education for 11 years in several districts in the Denver, Colorado area. She also taught in the Webster City and Wall Lake school districts for a total of 35 years of full time teaching. In the future, Gwen predicts she will be found working, teaching or subbing part-time somewhere in the community. In addition, she will continue to sew Healing Quilts for the Children's Hospital, work on her flower gardens and read all those great books she hasn't had time for yet!

Janet Ross (West High School)

Janet is an Iowa native and UNI graduate who taught middle school math for 6 years in Keokuk before moving to the Chicago suburbs where she and her husband raised their two children. While living in Illinois Janet taught all grade levels, from 4-year-olds to high school and also worked in child care and as a secretary. Ten years ago, changes in her husband's career allowed them to accomplish a long term goal of moving back to Iowa. Janet feels privileged and blessed to have taught at West High and to live in Iowa City.

Robin Torner (West High School)

Robin began her teaching career in 1976 at Prairie Jr. High. For the past 15 years she has been a special education teacher in the Learning Center at West High School. In between, Robin held positions at a middle school, a vocational-technical high school and at two universities. Robin hopes to return to West High as a volunteer tutor as she truly enjoys working with teenagers.

Peg deSalme (Wickham Elementary School)

Peg de Salme is a loyal Hawkeye fan, having lived in Iowa City most of her life. She attended the University of Iowa, where she studied flute and graduated with a degree in music education. She's spent 37 years teaching instrumental music at all levels in four different school districts; Eastern Allamakee, Durant, West Branch and Iowa City. She was even a high school volleyball coach during her time at Durant. It has been a real pleasure for Peg to teach at Roosevelt, Wickham and Weber elementary schools during the last 13 years of her teaching career. She looks forward to volunteering, travelling with her husband and spending time with her family upon retirement.

Peg's excellent reputation as a musician and teacher preceded her arrival to Wickham School. She has, each year, given our youngest band students a solid foundation for their future musical endeavors. Students under her direction are poised, self-disciplined and well prepared. Peg is conscientious, supportive and kind to everyone, students and colleagues. We will miss her very much.

Annie Servin (Wood Elementary School)

Annie's role at Grant Wood School is hard to define because she helps students and parents in so many ways. She helps parents find housing, fill out reports, go to doctor appointments, get clothing, food, furniture, and any other community supports they may need. She picks up parents and brings them to meetings at school, conducts home visits, sets up language classes for parents that speak a second language, and she sits by their side in parent teacher conferences. Annie helps students by organizing Operation Backpack (food that is sent home with students who would otherwise go hungry), setting up after school tutoring and art club and is instrumental in providing and supporting other programs as well.

Her kind heart and smile are a warm welcome to all who work with Annie. She is the definition of a person "who wears many hats." Annie's impact on the lives of students, staff and parents is beyond words. She is the assurance, the soft place and the one who can always be counted on to provide for those who are losing hope.

Molly Severson (Wood Elementary School)

Molly can always be seen with a smile on her face and the hand of a child in hers. She helps each child to reach their full potential. She truly cares about each of the children she works with and makes sure she does everything she can to help them learn. Each time you visit her classroom, you see smiles on the faces of the children she works with. Molly makes a positive impact on every child and is a true asset. She is passionate in her advocacy and respect for Grant Wood students and families.

Kate Moreland (DPO)

Kate Moreland served as Director of Community Relations for the Iowa City Community School District from 2011 until early 2014, when she departed to take a position with Iowa City Area Development. Kate developed and launched the district's first community relations program. In that capacity, she coordinated all district publications, dissemination of information to media outlets, fielded news media inquiries, oversaw website and social media outlets to share district information with patrons, and helped manage forums for gathering community input. She also worked very closely with the District Parents' Organization, helping the DPO identify issues, topics and speakers for presentation to our district's network of PTOs, PTAs, and PSTOs. She made it a priority to help the DPO with organizational, administrative and website development issues. The DPO benefited greatly from Kate's dedication and assistance, and we thank her for her commitment to the district.