

2012 DPO Education Scholarship Reception Honoree Biographies Listed Alphabetically by School or Organization

Vicki Burketta - Athens History Circle

Vicki Burketta started her career as a teacher and coach in Illinois. In 1984 she moved to Iowa City where she supervised student teachers at the U of I. In 1985 Vicki began a long career with the ICCSD which lasted over 20 years. She worked as a math area resource specialist and as a math curriculum consultant for Grant Wood AEA. Vicki owned and directed a private tutorial mathematics service for students from elementary through college. Vicki tutored thousands of students over 30 plus years. She worked tirelessly to ensure that her students would appreciate the beauty and power of mathematics.

Paula Ellsworth - City High

Paula Ellsworth has been a long-time and highly successful special education teacher at City High. She has demonstrated incredible caring, compassion, kindness, and dedication. She will be missed at City High.

She has worked at City High School since 1993, where she has taught students with behavior disorders a range of subjects. She has been described by her colleagues as a teacher who puts the needs of her students above her own, and refuses to give up on students – or allow them to give up on themselves. Over the years, she has taken her efforts beyond the classroom to help students succeed.

Paula is known for dealing with very challenging students in a non-judgmental way, and with authentic concern and compassion. Her influence has helped transform the lives of students who thought success was out of reach.

Jan Hollis - City High

Jan first worked as a substitute teacher, on long-term assignment at City High. She then worked at Southeast for 10 years, then transferring to West High and becoming the district's math coordinator in 1982. In 2001, she moved back to Southeast for a year, then returned to City High in 2002, to end her career where it all began.

She has mostly taught Algebra and Algebra II. As math coordinator, she guided curriculum review and helped facilitate professional development for teachers. She has many great memories of her teaching years, most of which are related to helping individual students. After retiring, she looks forward to spending more time gardening, and having more time to volunteer and to travel – perhaps to see more of her daughter Jenny, a City High graduate who now lives in Bloomington, IN, and is earning a PhD in neuroscience.

Donna Grundstad - City High

Donna grew up in Whittier, Iowa, and attended the University of Iowa and also the Université de Caen in Caen, France. She began teaching French at City High in 1976, left to go to graduate school, and returned to the district in 1985 (and to City High in

1997). She has worked for the district for 30 years, spending half of that time at City High.

Donna will remember City High for its positive and friendly atmosphere, and has felt greatly supported by the faculty and staff. She has enjoyed having the same students for 3 or 4 years straight, getting to know them well and seeing their French skills grow.

After retiring, she looks forward to spending more time with her family, which includes her husband Al, two sons (both City High graduates), a daughter-in-law, and a granddaughter who is almost 1. She will also look for ways to keep using her French skills in the community.

Emil Rinderspacher - City High

Emil is a master gardener and comes from a family of serious gardeners. His last child graduated in 2009, but he has maintained an active volunteer presence, helping to implement a master landscaping plan for the newly beautified City High campus.

Using a master plan designed in 2000, he created planting designs with the help of his brother, secured bids, worked with Project Green to secure matching funds, coordinated materials and deliveries, organized equipment, and trained volunteer master gardeners to direct more than 200 volunteers. To quote Assistant Principal Terry Coleman: "Without Emil, the City High landscaping project would never even have gotten past the concept phase."

Additional volunteer work for City High includes organizing tickets sales and publicity for musical productions at City High. He has also contributed wonderful ideas to improve the drama program. We are grateful for his dedication as a volunteer.

Brad Smith - City High

After a 34-year career of coaching wrestling, including 21 of them at City High, Brad Smith will retire as a physical education teacher and coach. He also served as Dean of Students for 10 years. A life-long wrestler, he is a 2-time undefeated Illinois state champion and was a 1976 NCAA champion for the Iowa Hawkeyes.

Before he came to City High, he taught and coached at Lisbon High School, where coached 10 State Championship Teams. In his time at City High, he coached five State Championship Teams.

Smith is proud of the impact he has had on young people, and will miss the job, but intends to stay involved in wrestling one way or another, hoping to stay in touch with athletes he has mentored and coached since elementary school. He hopes to have more time to spend with his wife, Connie, and three sons, Jacob, Cody and Colton.

Jane Bousfield - Coralville Central

Coralville Central has been fortunate to have Jane Bousfield for her entire 29 year teaching career! Since 2002 she has been working half-time sharing a second grade classroom with Marcy Wolf.

Jane is the morning teacher focusing on Language Arts. She developed a strong writing curriculum focusing on sentence structure, words and word patterns to enhance reading and writing. Jane was instrumental in implementing Coralville Central's Reading At Home (RAH) Program, making sure every student ages 5-8 years old takes home level appropriate books to practice and encourage reading at home. Jane also shares her knowledge and classroom experience with college practicum students.

It is interesting to note that Jane's own daughter has been the recipient of a Kate Wickham Scholarship. The Coralville Central staff and parents are honored to nominate Jane for the DPO honoree recognition.

Gail Swartzendruber - Coralville Central

Gail began her career teaching Laotian children in Goodland, Kansas and soon after, she taught a 1st/2nd grade combination class in Kanorado, Kansas. After she obtained her Masters of Education in Early Childhood Special Education from the University of Illinois, she began her work with Grant Wood AEA teaching early childhood special education. During the years 1980-1987 she taught an early childhood special education classroom at Horace Mann Elementary. In the fall of 1987, her classroom was moved to Coralville Central Elementary where she still calls home today. Gail will be remembered by her peers for her continuous hard work towards meeting the individual needs of each of her students and her eagerness to always try out new and exciting projects. Gail will be remembered by the parents of her students for providing a safe, fun and educational environment for their children to learn and grow. She will be deeply missed by her Cougar family and we wish her all the best in her life's next adventures!

Marcy Wolf - Coralville Central

Marcy has been teaching in the ICCSD for 20 years and at Coralville Central since 2001. In 2002 she went half-time sharing a second grade classroom with Jane Bousfield. Marcy is the afternoon teacher instructing her students in math, science and social studies. Marcy, along with her teaching team, has found several ways to incorporate the science she teaches in the classroom with fun activities outside of the classroom.

Marcy was instrumental in creating Second Grade Bird Day, bringing in a Johnson County naturalist to teach students about birds and help with the building of birdhouses. Marcy is a dedicated teacher who strives to meet the needs of her students and enthusiastically supports her teaching team in the areas of science and social studies.

Marcy has decided to retire, her experience and commitment to her students and staff will be truly missed!

Raymone Bryant - DPO honoree

Raymone was described as an explorer: he was the type of person that wanted to know everything about life to make sure he could do anything he chose. He loved to do homework and received excellent grades. Raymone had a caring personality, he once

wrote an essay on what he would do to change the world – he would have given everyone \$50 so that they could go buy themselves something extra – this essay depicted his innocent and kind personality. Raymone was a standout track runner – he was a role model of hard work for the rest of his teammates. Raymone will be remembered for this dedication, willingness to work for success and for his kind, giving heart.

Caroline Found- DPO Honoree

“Live like line,” has become a popular phrase for people when they remember their friend and classmate from West High, Caroline Found.

Caroline has been described as a person that accepted and made friends with everyone, there were no boundaries in her world – everyone was accepted. She was known for her smile and making everyday life and situations more fun. She seized moments and treasured relationships with people most of all, her family. She was a role model for the West High community and her enthusiasm for life is something her friends and family wish for all of us to remember.

Marlys Reiland - Garner

Marlys began her career in education as a para educator in the Eagle Grove Community Schools. She worked at the elementary level working with the reading program.

She taught remedial reading for 2 years and 3rd grade for 5 years in the Clarion-Goldfield School District.

She then taught 5th grade Reading & Language Arts in Eagle Grove for 1 year.

Her master’s degree is in Elementary Guidance from ISU. She started the Elementary Counseling program for grades 2-4 in Eagle Grove and was also the Eagle Grove Middle School Counselor for grades 5-8 for 1 year.

She moved to Iowa City and became a school counselor at Cleveland Elementary School in Cedar Rapids for 7 years.

She finishes her career with the Iowa City School District; first as a school counselor at Roosevelt Elementary for 13 years and at Garner Elementary for 2 years.

Barb Gingerich - Hills

Barb Gingerich is retiring this year after teaching at Hills Elementary for 27 years. She has taught both fifth and sixth grade during this time. Barb has always made her students’ final year at Hills a special one. She accompanies the class to the School of the Wild for a week of outdoor learning at Lake MacBride. Hot chocolate and read-alouds during winter are an expected treat. But Barb’s true passion is social studies. She loves teaching about history and helps make it come alive and be relevant for her students.

Her former students constantly return to school to visit her, a testament to the confidence she helps build in them in the time they spend with her.

The Hills Elementary community will miss Barb’s humor, laughter, and love of teaching.

Congratulations, Barb; you have left a heartfelt mark on the students and staff of Hills Elementary. Thanks for all you have given of yourself over the years.

Joanne Ferentz - Hoover

Joanne attended the University of Iowa and majored in elementary education, with endorsements in reading and language arts, with plans to pursue a master's degree in the near future. She has enjoyed her second year of teaching third and fourth grade at Hoover Elementary School.

Joanne went into teaching because of the teachers at all stages of her education who have touched her life in a pivotal way.

To the scholarship recipients: no matter which college of education you go on to attend, you will be asked this question many times: Is teaching an art or a science? Any teacher will tell you it's both. Teaching is a unique career in that you are responsible for so much more than your literal job description. Not only will you teach academics, you will instill empathy, compassion, trust, risk-taking, critical thinking, citizenship, friendship, acceptance, and countless other things. Teaching is the utmost privilege. Congratulations on your upcoming graduation and best of luck in your future teaching endeavors-you are entering the best job on earth with the opportunity to touch many young lives.

Margaret Jacobson - Hoover

Margaret completed her undergraduate work at Norfolk State University in Virginia. Over the past 18 years she has taught in Virginia, North Carolina, California, and Iowa. She earned my Master's Degree from Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa.

She is absolutely passionate about teaching, feeling strongly that here is no other job in the world that is as challenging, ever-changing, demanding, yet so completely fulfilling. There is no greater triumph than helping a child realize that they can read a word, a sentence, a paragraph, a story; reading brings the world into a child's life in a magical way. Margaret loves being part of that process.

Additionally, she looks forward to continuing her career in education. She is dedicated to curriculum development, professional development of teachers, best-practices, and education research.

Personally Margaret enjoys living in Kalona with her husband Rick and their 16 year-old daughter, Sidney. She loves traveling, boating, running, and spending time with her family!

Candace Carmichael - Horn

Candace Carmichael was an Art Educator in the Iowa City Community School District from 1978 -2011. During that time Candace taught at Northwest and Southeast Junior High, Shimek, and Horn. She shared her passion for all forms of art with students for over three decades. She made "great art" accessible to even the youngest students and encouraged them to create great art themselves. Although she passed away in August

of 2011 her love of art will live on in the hundreds of students who were fortunate enough to be in one of her classes.

Janet Galbreth - Lemme

Janet grew up in Missouri and attended Southeast Missouri State University. She has taught since, although she did stay home a few years to raise her children. She taught 2 years in Missouri then in Iowa City at Hills Elementary and Lemme School in third and fourth grades since 1982.

She is a dedicated teacher who sets high expectations for all of her students. Her warm smile, the way she cares for children, and her ability to engage all students in learning are just a few of the things you could say about Janet. Janet loves to read, travel with her husband, visit her granddaughter and spend time with her friends. We have been lucky to work with such an outstanding teacher!

Lu Hileman - Lemme

Lu has been in the ICCSD since 1979. She taught preschool special education through 6th grade including students with severe/profound disabilities and behavior disorders. She is currently at Lemme and she sees students at Lucas and SEJH for music therapy.

Lu has a contagious smile, a sparkle in her eye and a passion for what she does. She is able to find the strengths of her children and help them shine in their musical talents. She has touched the lives of many children through her passion and love of music. She will never ever forget the profound effect music and students continue to make on her and the world.

In her retirement, she hopes to spend more time with her grandson and granddaughter. She plans to rest, read, travel, and enjoy family and friends. She will continue to play flute in Court Hill Woodwind Quintet and may take some piano and flute lessons.

Kari Broghamer – Lincoln

Kari Broghamer began teaching at Lincoln 25 years ago. She taught in the intermediate unit for two years before moving to the primary unit until her retirement at the conclusion of this school year. Kari's leadership as team leader, her support to new teachers as a teacher mentor, and her involvement in numerous district committees, are just some of the reasons why Kari is so highly regarded by her colleagues. She is a master teacher, who instills the love of learning in all her students. Every child is successful in Kari's classroom because of her expertise in finding the most effective way to adapt and enhance instruction to meet individual needs and setting high standards for all her students. She will be greatly missed among the Lincoln community. Colleagues, students and parents wish Kari the best in her retirement, thank her for her dedication, and congratulate her on this recognition.

Salina Hemann - Lincoln

Salina's passion for instilling the love of reading and learning in all students began when she was a first grade teacher at Madison Elementary in Davenport, IA, where she also

started her career as a teacher librarian. She moved to the Clear Creek Amana school district as their teacher librarian before assuming the same position at Lincoln School in 2008.

Salina loves finding new books to capture the interests of students and to keep them challenged with "just the right book." Her ability to work with teachers to support instruction is invaluable to student learning. She has been instrumental in bringing more technology to Lincoln and educating both the staff and students in using it to support instruction and learning.

The staff, students and parents at Lincoln want to thank Salina for her enthusiasm and dedication. Her relentless efforts which support the entire educational program at Lincoln make her a worthy recipient of this recognition.

Betsy Henson - Lincoln

Betsy always wanted to teach General Music. She never waivered from this. So after graduating from Cornell College, doing post graduate work at the University of Iowa, and a K-12 classroom position in Oxford Junction, Betsy moved to Newton, and stepped into the job that she had always dreamed about; general elementary music teacher.

A K-12 classroom position at Clarence Lowden followed, and though not teaching the music lessons that she loved, she did enjoy her experience there and made many dear friends that she is still in touch with today.

Betsy was able to get back into the job that she loved when her family moved to Iowa City. General music positions at Hills, Lincoln, Penn, Shimek and Kirkwood, combined with the Adaptive Music position at Wickham, have kept Betsy busy and completely in her element!

Husband John and children Tom and Megan will enjoy spending time with Betsy after she retires this year.

Joni Jones – Lincoln

"It has been a gift to have spent many happy days in kindergarten!" Joni Jones grew up in a small New Jersey town and was taught kindergarten by her own mother.

She values lifelong learning and obtained her MA+30. She earned her undergraduate degree from Mills College, a women's college in New York City, and later earned her Early Childhood graduate degree from the University of Maryland.

Joni's 28 year teaching career began in 1968. She taught preschool in Baltimore in Early Admissions, a public school program in disadvantaged neighborhoods. She then taught kindergarten with the Follow Through Program.

In Iowa, Joni substituted for several years before joining the Lincoln Lions for 22 years, where she has been our kindergarten "queen"! Joni's future plans include: family time, art classes, Master Gardening, biking, kayaking, and playing bass drum in a band.

Her co-teacher salutes, "Kindergarten is an art Joni has mastered! She will be dearly missed."

Barb Doherty - Longfellow

Mrs. Barb Doherty has been a pillar in the Longfellow community for over 15 years. With children of her own and countless students who've learned from her, she is an educator at her very core. Well-grounded in her philosophy and beliefs about children, education and learning, Barb 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, teaching students, she can be found collaborating with peers to ensure her team is doing the very best for children. Whether it is a general education plan or a special education plan, Barb is always willing to help find positive solutions to whatever potential problems may arise or have already come to light. She truly has a heart of gold and is the Integrity in our PRIDE program. For all she has done and all that she is, Mrs. Doherty will be deeply missed by the Longfellow community.

Renaë McKay - Longfellow

Renaë McKay has had children at Longfellow for the last 8 years, and has 6 years to go. She set out to make a difference in their education, and what a difference she has made. She has been incredibly active at Longfellow. For the PTA, she has served as secretary, president, past president, fundraising chair, and landscaping chair. She has also volunteered at countless events.

Renaë has been a tireless advocate of Longfellow, the Iowa City Schools, and education in general. She was very involved in redistricting two years ago. She attended every -- or nearly every -- redistricting meeting, organized forums, and provided updates to Longfellow parents. She has been active in her support of small class sizes this year as well, advocating for more teachers before the school board. She is now advocating for recognition at the state level of the importance of small class sizes.

Mary Ellen Timbs - Longfellow

Mary Ellen Timbs came to Longfellow after a lengthy stint as the secretary at Penn Elementary School in North Liberty. Starting work with Mary Ellen Maske for the second time in her career, she hit the ground running at Longfellow and has never looked back. She is an individual with high standards and great expectations. Mary Ellen is continually looking for ways to improve herself and more importantly, her students; some of which have racked up quite a few frequent flier miles in the office.

Mary Ellen's strong secretarial skills have been one of her greatest assets – the office environment she has created in a relatively short period of time here at Longfellow rivals any main office across the district. Perhaps her greatest skill is her ability to collaborate with the teachers and to tolerate her administrator. Her sense of humor and wit aside, anyone visiting can see how much she enjoys, and cares about our community.

Terry Ball - Lucas

Terry began his teaching career began February, 1971 in Marshalltown, Iowa where he was assigned to teach intermediate-aged students identified with learning and behavioral concerns, he stayed there for 3 1/2 years.

He then came to the ICCSD as a resource teacher. He has worked in many of the schools here, Twain, Hills, Penn, Grant Wood, Coralville Central, Kirkwood, and Lucas.

While teaching, he most enjoyed working with the students. He also enjoyed working with parents and other professionals to find the best program for various student's needs. He will miss his students.

In retirement Terry plans to spend more time with his wife and helping others.

Alfreda Dixon - Lucas

Freda came to the University of Iowa in 1973 after graduating from Lindblom High School in Chicago, Illinois. She met and married Kenneth Gatlin in 1975 and had three children: Tanya, Jarrod and Bernard.

Freda worked at Melrose Day Care Center while completing her bachelor's degree at the University of Iowa. She also has master's degree from Graceland University which she received in 2006.

In the fall of 1987, she accepted her first elementary teaching assignment in a first/second grade classroom. She has also taught fourth and fifth grades during the regular school year. All twenty five of her teaching years have been at Lucas Elementary. In addition, Freda taught first through sixth graders at Grant Wood, Kirkwood, Weber, Northwest, and South East schools during the sixth weeks of summer school programs.

Patti Fumerton - Mann

Patti began her career teaching Junior High in Toronto, Canada. After moving to Iowa City and spending twelve years at home raising her children, Patti returned to teaching in 1985 working with primary students at Coralville Central and sixth graders at Longfellow. The following year Patti came to Horace Mann where she taught first and second grade for twenty-five years. Patti loves the diversity at Mann and feels that the students and families there are the best in the district. She never wanted to teach anywhere else. She loves to teach children how to read and write and develop a love for literature. It was a very difficult decision but Patti has decided to retire this year. She will miss seeing the students on a daily basis but hopes to sub at Mann so she can stay in touch with the students and continue to watch them grow.

Kris Quinn - Mann

Kris began her career in special education, working with students with autism and severe behavior disorders. She worked at Child Psychiatry and was a special education consultant for Grant Wood Area Education Agency prior to becoming a school district employee in 1986. Kris has been principal at Mann Elementary for the last four years. She loves the diversity of the student population and is always learning from staff, students and parents.

Cece Roudabush - North Central

North Central Junior High is very proud to recognize Cece Roudabush. Cece has been sharing her gifts with the students of the Iowa City School District since August, 1989. She has taught General Music at Hoover, Wickham, Weber, SEJH, NWJH, and NCJH. While at NCJH, she has also lead 7th grade students through those very uncomfortable topics as a highly trained Personal Development 7 teacher. As if that's not enough, she also teaches a rock band class and runs an after-school Garage Band Club for aspiring rockers. Other extra service activities include Conflict Resolution and Student Council sponsor at Hoover and Talent Show Sponsor at NWJH. At NCJH she is a founding member of the building professional learning team where she works with colleagues to plan and lead meaningful professional development activities.

Cece is one of the first on staff to volunteer her time and talents when duty calls. She goes above and beyond to support staff who experience personal crisis, and regularly gives of her time outside of the school day.

Pat Curley - Northwest

Pat Curley graduated from St. Ambrose College in English and History and received Masters from St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota with an emphasis in gifted education. She began her teaching career in 1973 in Memphis, Tennessee. In 1977 she moved to Iowa City and taught English at Regina High School. In 1980 Pat moved to Coon Rapids, Minnesota and taught publication at Anoka Ramsey Community College. In the fall of 1987, she moved back to Iowa City and started teaching for the district.

Pat has taught at Coe College and currently teaches a graduate course for the University of Iowa through the Belin Blank Center. In 2009 Pat was honored with the Professional Women Award and she has received multiple Belin-Blank Teacher Recognition Awards throughout her years of teaching in Iowa City.

In retirement, Pat will continue to teach through the Belin Blank Center and travel year round.

Andrea Keech - Northwest

Andrea Keech has taught in public and parochial elementary and secondary schools in California and Iowa in grades K-12. She has written and illustrated a variety of educational articles and texts. She received a Carver Excellence in Education Grant, many Belin-Blank honored teacher awards, and was chosen for the Teacher Excellence Award from the Chamber of Commerce. Andrea has a degree in English with teaching endorsements in English/language arts, world history/social studies, and Spanish. Locally, she has been working with ACT on eighth grade text complexity identification and bringing Iowa curriculum into alignment with Iowa Core Standards and Common Core Standards. Mrs. Keech's all-time favorite school is Northwest Junior High, and her proudest achievement, apart from her beloved children and grandchildren, is the success in local, regional, and national writing competitions earned by her students.

Carla Krogman - Northwest

Carla began teaching in 1987 as an English instructor for DMAC in Ankeny Iowa. The next year she was hired to teach English and coach speech for the United Community

School District in Boone. Carla earned her MA in Educational Administration from Iowa State while working as the coordinator of FUTURES, an alternative high school in Boone. Carla came to the ICCSD in 1997 and for the last 15 years has been the Assistant Principal of Northwest Junior High School.

In retirement, Carla will be anything but retired. She is moving to Kelley, Iowa to spend more time with her family. Carla has two grandchildren, ages 3 and 4 and another one on the way. In addition to spending more time with her grandchildren, Carla plans to work with pre-service teachers and also volunteer at her local school.

Sue Richards - Northwest

Sue Richards began her teaching career at Clear Creek Middle School, then moved to Des Moines where she earned an MSE degree from Drake University. After completing this graduate program, Sue worked in the Southeast Polk district.

Then, following her husband as he pursued his medical training, Sue came back to Clear Creek Middle School and to Long Island, New York before returning to Iowa.

Sue decided to combine her interest in teaching and reading by attending the University of Iowa's School of Library Science. In 1991, Sue graduated with an MLS and K-12 School Library Certification.

From 1991-1994, Sue worked as a library media specialist at West High School in Iowa City. In 1994, Sue joined the staff of Northwest Junior High School where she has served as teacher librarian for 18 years. She is the longest standing librarian in the school's history.

After a 32-year career in education, Sue is looking forward to new challenges.

Sarah Sobocinski - Northwest

Sarah Sobocinski began teaching in 1975 after graduating from Cornell College. She taught in several schools in Illinois until 1982. Then she took the position of Gifted and Talented Coordinator in the West Branch School District, teaching there for fourteen years.

After completing post graduate work, she came to work for the ICCSD at Coralville Central Elementary, where she remained for 7 years. Moving to Northwest Junior High School, she worked for the district as a Reading Strategist, providing professional development for the district Reading initiative, and helped create and write the curriculum for the current Literacy class for seventh grade students.

Sarah will miss the students, their positive energy, enthusiasm and valuable lessons in life that they passed on to her. She plans to work with them in some capacity in the future. During the summers, however, Sarah also plans to open a Bed and Breakfast in northern Wisconsin where she will enjoy life by the lake.

Terri O'Leary - Penn

Terri O'Leary began teaching 2nd grade at Twain 21 years ago. After 2 ½ years she transferred to Penn, then helped open Wickham and later returned to Penn. She has taught 1st-4th grades and Reading.

She's been married to Michael for 29 years and is looking forward to spending more time with their family and friends, traveling and riding her motorcycle. We will miss her at Penn.

Lori Enloe - Roosevelt

Lori Enloe has had a hand in almost every event, fundraiser, and project at Roosevelt Elementary for the past eight years. She has been president of the PTO for three years, DPO representative, and was a room parent every year her two boys were at Roosevelt. She has taken pictures of school events for the yearbook, planned the 5/6 grade field trips to the state capitol (making sure the kids meet with senators and representatives), and organized the Reading Festival held at Roosevelt. Additionally, she has helped with events including International Day, the Haunted Ravine, the Carnival, registration day, Picture Day, music programs, ice cream social and Day 100 festivities. Last year, Lori was instrumental with the Roosevelt 80th anniversary planning committee, and continues with planning for this year's sixth grade graduation and closing of Roosevelt festivities.

Lori continues this gift of her time and energy by volunteering at North West Junior High.

Peggy Jeffries - Roosevelt

Peggy Jeffries grew up in Iowa City, the youngest of 8 children. She attended Kindergarten at Henry Sabin School, the same building that housed the ICCSD's CAO. For 1st through 12 grades, Peggy attended area Catholic schools. She attended college at the University of Iowa.

In 1976, she married the love of her life, Bruce, and they raised three children: Sam, Kerri, and Katie.

Peggy began her career in education working as an associate for West Branch Schools. In 1989, she started teaching math in Wilton. From 1991-2012, Peggy taught 5th/6th and 2nd grades, 3rd grade math and social studies, Reading Recovery, and Title 1 Reading at Roosevelt.

This year, she will retire from her wonderful career in education and looks forward to waking up without an alarm clock buzzing in her ear. She will surely spend her days crafting, sewing, and making memories with her children and grandchildren.

Carolyn Loops - Roosevelt

Carolyn Loops taught in the Iowa City School District for forty-one years at Horace Mann Elementary and Roosevelt Elementary, after teaching in the Cedar Rapids District for a year. During this time, she saw many changes in curriculum, student populations, and educational philosophies. However, she maintained her professionalism and dedication to student success from her first years of teaching to the last.

As an intermediate and upper elementary teacher, her favorite subjects to teach were social studies and reading. Former students of Carolyn have fond memories of her social studies “Questions of the Week” and making relief maps of imaginary islands.

Carolyn’s sense of humor and wealth of knowledge will be missed!

Vicki Thomae - Shimek

Vicki Thomae began working as a substitute secretary at Shimek Elementary from time to time and was permanently hired in April of 1990 as the media secretary at Shimek. She worked in that capacity until May of 1991, when she transferred to the office after the principal’s secretary retired. Vicki has been serving as principal’s secretary since that time. Vicki is well known and loved by students, families, staff, and three different principals. When Vicki answers the phone at Shimek, she always makes the person on the other end feel as if she has been waiting for their call. Vicki’s caring attitude and listening ear are treasured by the entire Shimek community. Thank you, Vicki, for all you do for all of us!

Barbara Henke - Southeast

Barb has been teaching in the Iowa City School district since 1982. She has taught math at South East Junior High, West and Tate.

Barb has been active in the Iowa City Education Association, serving as President for three years and Chief Negotiator. Working on the district’s Insurance Committee, Facilities Planning Committee, CSIP Committee, Teacher Quality Committee at least three Math Course Review Committees and several Middle School Task Forces were some of the highlights of her commitment to the district, its teachers, and students.

Barb sponsored the national math competition for junior high students, MathCounts, off and on at South East from 1987 to the present, achieving the honor of the State of Iowa MathCounts Coach three times.

Barb has two grown daughters who live not too far away and this spring will have two granddaughters to light up her life!

Mark Kluber - Southeast

In the fall of 1979 Mark was able to student-teach P.E. and health at Northwest Junior High and coach football at West High through the Regents Exchange Program between the University of Iowa and Iowa State University. The experience he had was excellent, and he knew he wanted to teach and coach in the Iowa City community School District.

In the spring of 1980 Mark began a 31-year teaching and coaching career in Iowa City. During his tenure he has taught at South East, Central Junior High, West High School, and Northwest Junior High teaching science, math, and health. He has coached at South East, West and City High football, track, and basketball.

The highlight of his career includes working with and for outstanding students, teachers, coaches and administrators. Mark feels very fortunate to have had this experience.

Janet Luedtka - Southeast

Janet entered the teaching profession in 1973 as an itinerant special education teacher in Louisa County, Iowa, traveling among four schools. She taught special education in various schools in Louisa County, Muscatine, Davenport, and Dunlap, Illinois.

When she and her husband moved to Davenport, Iowa, their children were quite small and Janet became a stay-at-home mom. She did some substitute teaching and some part time teaching, again in special education.

In 1994 Janet and her family moved to the Iowa City area due to her husband's job transfer. She began teaching at South East Jr. High in 1994 as a special education teacher, and has been there ever since. In addition to teaching special education students, she co-taught Science 7 for several years.

Janet has two grown children who live in southern Iowa. She is looking forward to spending time with her first grandchild born this month.

Bev Williams - Southeast

Bev is the Attendance Secretary/Bookkeeper. She started at SE in 1984 when there were no computers so everything was paper/pencil/adding machine and the "summers off" schedule was ideal for her when her children were small.

Bev has enjoyed working at Southeast for 28 years because everyone is so friendly and caring. She knows multiple generations of families who have been associated with South East and has a great memory that they turn to often to piece together stories. She has enjoyed seeing students grow up and become responsible young adults who will lead our country someday. She will miss the staff and faculty the most.

She loves to spend time with her family (children and grandchildren). She looks forward to traveling the country via RV and got a good start last summer by traveling to and spending time in Alaska.

Diane Schweer - Twain

Diane will be leaving Twain after 10 years of being a wonderful asset to the school. Diane has devoted many volunteer hours in the classroom helping both students and teachers with various projects, school parties, as well as outside of the classroom chaperoning field trips. She has assisted teachers in various tasks and has recently been helping in the media center which is something she very much enjoys.

In addition, Diane has been a very important part of the Twain PTO. She has served as the DPO representative for the last 5 years in addition to chairing various fundraisers and volunteering her time for events and projects.

Diane is a trusted and respected part of the Mark Twain community by both the teachers and the children she has watched grow up through her years at Twain. Her hard work and dedication to the Twain community will be greatly missed!

Dan Schweer - Twain

Dan will be leaving Mark Twain after 10 years of wonderful volunteer service to the school as a member of the PTO. Dan was in charge of the building sign for 5 years in addition to many, many hours served on various PTO projects and events, most notably the annual spring carnival where he was a major contributor to its success over the last 10 years.

Dan has always supported and stood up for a positive image of Twain as an excellent school, not only a parent but also as a graduate himself, something which gives him great pride. Dan has been a respected part of the Twain community and his time and service are greatly appreciated by the teachers, the students, and his fellow PTO parents. Mark Twain community will miss you!

Kien Diep - Van Allen

Kien is a custodian at Van Allen School. He has a good work ethic. He is willing to help PTO with special events like Kindergarten Roundup and Parent University by setting up tables, etc.

Kien comes from Vietnam and has shared his immigration experiences in the classroom as well. Kien cares about the students and engages with them in the hallway and the lunchroom often. He strives to have everyone to get along and have Van Allen be a safe and caring place for students to come and learn.

Connie Greenleaf - Weber

Connie Greenleaf has been an ELL teacher for 37 years. She has taught all levels, including K-12 and adult learners. Connie came to the ICCSD in 1991 as an ELL teacher and became the half time ELL Coordinator in 2005. Over the years, Connie has passionately pursued her interests in curriculum development, teacher training, and leadership. Her knowledge and expertise, as well as her compassion for her students are exceptional. At Weber, Connie has been a very valuable member of our learning community. She has been active on our Weber Leadership Team and integral in shaping many of our all school traditions over the years.

She is fondly known for her unending Halloween spirit, being our official "refrigerator police", our United Nations Day fashion show emcee, and writer and director of many Weber chants, raps, and songs.

Connie has been a huge asset to our learning community and will be greatly missed at Weber Elementary and in the ICCSD.

Jane Caraway - West

Jane Caraway was a GWAEA consultant for four years, a GWAEA administrator for fifteen years and taught special education at the elementary, middle school and high school levels for a total of 13 years including the last six at West High School. Jane has also been an adjunct faculty member at Mercy College for the past twelve years.

Barb Greene - West

Barb Greene has been in education for 31 years with the last 15 years teaching in Iowa City. She has taught at the elementary, junior high and senior high levels both in general education and special education. For the last 7 years Barb has also been West High special education department chair.

Linda Muhly - West

Linda Muhly taught mathematics at Northwest Junior High for five years and at West High for the past 29 years including 16 years as department chair. In addition Linda has taught mathematics at the post-secondary level including University of Iowa, Coe College, and Mt. Mercy. Linda has received many teaching honors and awards during her career and has served as a consultant for ACT and various state panels.

Marv Reiland - West

Marv Reiland taught Math and coached four different sports at Eagle Grove from 1970-1990. He also served as Athletic Director the last 5 years. He then moved to Iowa City West and has served as the West High athletic director for the past 22 years overseeing 22 different varsity sports. Marv was selected State AD of the year in 1998 and National AD of the Year in 2008.

Mary Kay Knapp – West

Mary Kay Knapp joined the vocal music staff at West High School in the fall of 2005 and has enjoyed conducting the Treble Choir, Women's Chorale, Select Women's Choir, Showtime Show Choir, and other choral-related activities like Opus, All State, Musical, and State Solo & Ensemble Contest. Ms. Knapp graduated from Clarke College in Dubuque, IA., and completed a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. Mary Kay has been an active member of the Iowa Choral Directors Association, having served on the state board in various leadership positions, and has presided, presented, and co-chaired the ICDA summer convention. Ms. Knapp is a frequent guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator for choral events around the state.

Jodi Cooper - Wickham

The Wickham PTO is honored to recognize Jodi Cooper for her contributions to the Wickham community! Jodi is consistently assisting in various ways in her children's classes. Jodi is a strong advocate for school children, considering the needs of all children.

Thank you Jodi for all that you do! It is parents like you that make a difference!

Traci Langland - Wickham

The Wickham PTO is honored to recognize Traci Langland for her contributions to the Wickham community! Traci is consistently assisting in various ways in all of her children's classes. Mrs Gardner who has had all three of Traci's children said, " She has volunteered in my room doing various things from reading to kids to clerical work. The biggest thing she does is cutting zillions of green tickets!"

Thank you Traci for all that you do! It is parents like you that make a difference!

Mona Ball -- Wood

Mona's teaching career began Aug., 1971 in Marshalltown, Iowa where she was assigned to teach primary-aged students identified with below average IQs. She taught there for 3 years, with the program moving after the 1st year to another building to enable the students' integration with their peer group in both academic and social activities.

Then she became an educational strategist for GWAEA for 2 years working in the ICCSD at Sabin, Longfellow, & Penn. Her job was to assess student strengths & weaknesses and help teachers select appropriate materials to best teach specific students.

Next she switched employment totally to the ICCSD and began instructing "general education" and taught a 1st/2nd grade combination classroom for 4 years at Longfellow.

Beginning her 10th year of teaching she started resource room instruction and did so for the next 30 years serving K-6 students in Horn, Lincoln, Coralville Central, Shimek, Lucas, and Grant Wood.

Ann Bell - Wood

Ann has been teaching all of her adult life, with 18 of those years in Iowa. She taught at West Branch, The University of Iowa while working on her Master's Degree and has been at Grant Wood Elementary in Iowa City as a Reading Recovery Teacher since 1996.

After her retirement she plans to work on her non-profit organization, Reading With Our Future Fans. Since beginning this organization, it has donated upwards of 8,000 books about Iowa universities sports teams to schools, agencies, hospitals, organizations and neighborhood programs to motivate kids to read. Her dream is to grow the vision and mission of Reading With Our Future Fans to include every NCAA university and elementary school across the United States.

Ann will miss the kids and the funny things they say! She'll miss working with her friends: a group of outstanding, dedicated and caring professionals. Together, they shared high-level professional discussions, personal therapy sessions and endured the challenges of teaching with laughter!

Pat Braunger - Wood

Besides teaching in Iowa, Pat was a teacher or librarian overseas for 17 years, in Taiwan, Kuwait, Cairo, Egypt and Singapore.

She will never forget the field trips with 6th graders while working in Egypt, including trips to the Pyramids of Giza outside of Cairo and locations in Upper Egypt such as Tutankuman's Tomb in the Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut's Temple and Luxor.

She will continue to smile every time she thinks of children playing on the Grant Wood playground equipment! She treasures memories of grant writing and fundraising by teachers, the PTO, and the community to raise the \$110,000 the equipment and surface cost-- and the challenges of installation!

Reading, writing, friends, family and travel, including a trip to France and Belgium next spring and two grandsons to love are in her retirement plan!

She'll miss sharing literature with children, especially when the students enable her to experience books through their own eyes and hearts.

Marijo Mihalopoulos - Wood

Marijo shares her love of art with her family, being one of seven art teachers and two full time artists in her extended family. She subbed her first three years in Iowa City and subbed absolutely everywhere, even in the nursery at the board office. She started teaching in 1990 and has taught at Longfellow, Northwest Junior High, Roosevelt, Coralville Central, Kirkwood, Penn, Mann, Twain and Grant Wood.

She is proud to have several of her former students now in the field of art, including Mark Jones, on the art staff, who said that Marijo put him in his first art show. Her proudest moments have been when a student is proud of his or her success and proclaims themself an "artist".

Marijo plans to enjoy spending more time with her family, writing for publication and painting and painting and painting. She considers retirement not an end of a career but a transition to more teaching, learning and doing her heart's desires.