



Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents Selects District Superintendents of the Year for 2016

INDIANAPOLIS, September 10, 2015 -- The Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents (IAPSS) has selected eight district *Superintendents of the Year* for 2016.

Winners are selected by other school superintendents in their area for their qualifications, accomplishments and their instructional leadership, especially in a time of limited resources.

The winners are:

- District 1: **School City of Hobart superintendent Dr. Peggy Buffington** was recognized for opening an Early Learning Center, initiating programs for children from birth to age five and a magnet high ability program, despite having to consolidate elementary schools to save money. She also co-chairs Ready NWI, an initiative to raise the percentage of people with postsecondary degrees in northwest Indiana.
- District 2: **Superintendent Dr. Randall Zimmerly of Westview School Corporation** in Topeka, Ind. was recognized for reducing staff through attrition and reassigning staff to put more resources in the classroom to make up for budget losses, and for working with other county superintendents, local realtors, business owners and media partners to bring attention to the need for budget relief for LaGrange County school districts.
- District 3: **Community Schools of Frankfort superintendent Donald DeWeese** was honored for making administrative staff cuts and achieving energy savings to

make up for a \$950,000 budget shortfall as well as gaining community approval for a \$30 million referendum for facility improvements to Frankfort High School.

- District 4: **Bloomfield School District superintendent Daniel A. Sichtung** was recognized for raising the district's accountability grade and ISTEP scores while coping with a 16 percent budget reduction in this small rural district with declining enrollment.
- District 5: **Avon Community School Corporation superintendent Dr. Margaret Hoernemann** was honored for convening an Efficiency Task Force that recommended \$650,000 in transportation and custodial staffing cuts, developing partnerships to supplement reduced revenue, and working with the Avon Taxing Entities Collaboration to find common solutions.
- District 6: **Randolph Central School Corporation superintendent Dr. Gregory P. Hinshaw** was honored for avoiding reductions in force (RIF) despite a 20 percent reduction in revenues. He also expanded the district's Early College and career and technology (CTE) programs.
- District 7: **Metropolitan School District of Mt. Vernon superintendent Dr. Thomas A. Kopatich** was recognized for closing an elementary school and reducing payroll to make up for a 30 percent loss in the district's general fund budget over the past several years.
- District 8: **Batesville Community School Corporation superintendent Dr. Jim Roberts** applied the district's Baldrige Continuous Improvement training to avoid cutting instruction programs or reducing professional staff despite financial challenges.

One of the eight district winners will be named Indiana Superintendent of the Year this fall and represent Indiana in the American Association of School Administrators national Superintendent of the Year competition.