

The College of Education and Professional Studies

Inaugural
Alumni Award Reception

Wednesday, April 7th, 2010

Martin Luther King Jr.
University Union



College of Education and Professional Studies Alumni Awards

CEPS Rising Star

The recipients of the CEPS Rising Star Award are within 3-5 years of graduation from Eastern Illinois University. They must have excelled in their field or career for which the CEPS degree prepared them.

CEPS Leadership and Service Award

The recipients of the Leadership and Service Award have had a significant impact in their chosen field, community, or society.

CEPS Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award

The recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award have attained distinguished professional success and prominence. These honorees are living role models in their disciplines within the College of Education and Professional Studies and will be inducted into the College's Hall of Fame.

Thank you to the many people that made this event possible:

EIU University Union

Panther Catering

Nancy's Lettering

Promopeddler

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Lori Henderson—EIU Graduate School

College of Education and
Professional Studies
Alumni Awards
Program

2009-2010 College of Education and Professional
Studies Alumni Board members:

Chad Burgett
Mona Davenport
John Hasten
Ingrid McCallister
Misty Rhoads
Lori Richardson
Scott Smith
Janette Van Meter

Welcome

Dr. Diane Jackman, Dean

Introduction of Honorees

Ms. Mary Bower, Assistant to the Dean

Presentation of Awards

Dr. Diane Jackman, Dean

Closing Remarks

Dr. Misty Rhoads, President the CEPS Alumni Board

Colleen Coffey



Colleen completed a master's degree in College Student Affairs at Eastern Illinois University after receiving a bachelor's degree in Social Work at Belmont University. She is now a doctoral student at Trevecca University in the field of Leadership. She is committed to challenging the stigma that surrounds mental disorders and puts that commitment to practice working full time as the Speakers Bureau Program Manager for Active Minds. She was very active in Student Affairs during her time at Eastern, and currently volunteers her time with The Leadership Institute - Women with Purpose, Inc.

Mike Rylko



Mike has a bachelor's degree in Recreation Administration from Eastern Illinois University and is in his 26th year as Executive Director of Buffalo Grove Park District. During Mike's tenure as Executive Director of Buffalo Grove, the District has grown from 120 acres to 419 acres and from 10 park sites to 50 sites. During this time, Mike oversaw the construction and operation of this explosive growth. The District has also earned Distinguished Park and Recreation Agency status in 2008, 2002 and 1996 and was a National Park and Recreation Gold Medal Finalist in 2009. Mike completed his master's in Public Administration from NIU and served as President of the Illinois Park and Recreation Association in 1997.

Sue Payton



Sue has a bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University in Physical Education. She had over 27 years of continued success working with senior aerospace and defense industry partners and in government positions with military services, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Intelligence Community, Congress, Universities and the media. As the former Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Ms. Payton was responsible for all Air Force research, development and acquisition activities and directed a \$30 billion annual investment. Among her numerous awards is the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service.

Rebecca Minkwitz



Rebecca has a bachelor's degree in Recreation Administration from Eastern Illinois University. She is currently the Recreation Supervisor with the Freeport Park District. One of the special events that she directs for the park district, *Art in the Park*, won two different awards for excellence. This event was named the 2008 Outstanding Program of the Year Award from the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association. It also received the 2009 Skyscraper Award from the Illinois Special Event Network for the poster design that was used in promoting the event.

Mark Drone



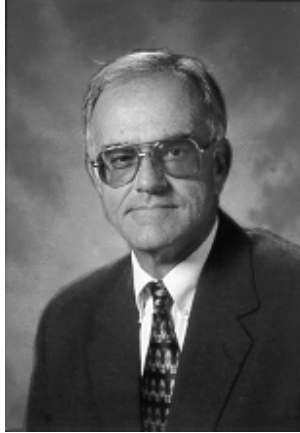
Mark holds two degrees from Eastern— a master’s degree in Educational Administration and a bachelor’s degree in Zoology. He is currently the Regional Superintendent for the Bond/ Fayette/Effingham county area. In addition to his teaching and administrative positions, he served as the Director of Technology Services for the same region where he co-founded a virtual community for Illinois technology educators and coordinators. Today, “Tech-Geeks” includes 600 members, most of whom are supporting educational technology in Illinois schools. It has numerous members from other states and even a few from other countries.

Mike Metzen



Mike received his specialist degree in Educational Administration, his master’s degree in Guidance and Counseling, and his bachelor’s degree in History, all from Eastern Illinois University. He has been in education for over 38 years starting as a teacher, elementary principal, assistant regional superintendent, and currently serving Vermillion County as its Regional Superintendent of Education. He played an integral role in the development of the Middle College at the Danville Area Community College. The Middle College is designed to help academically successful non-traditional students who were unable to finish high school, complete their high school degree.

John McNary



John received his master's degree in Guidance and Counseling as well as his bachelor's degree in History from Eastern Illinois University. After a successful career in education, John retired in 2009 as Superintendent of the Regional Office of Education #11 which covers Coles, Clark, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties in Illinois. Before his positions at the Regional Office of Education, John was a teacher, coach, and assistant principal in area school districts. He established programs which supported students who struggled in traditional school settings and helped create programs which addressed professional development needs of the staff in the ROE area.

Roger Eddy



Roger earned his master's and specialist degrees in Educational Administration and from Eastern Illinois University and has been Superintendent at Hutsonville CUSD # 1 for the last 14 years. At the same time, he is currently serving his seventh year as State Representative of the 109th District in Illinois. He has been a coach, teacher, principal and now superintendent in Illinois for the past 29 years. He is considered one of the key education experts in the General Assembly and has worked hard for fair and equitable education funding for downstate schools.

Susan Friend



Susan has a bachelor's degree in Recreational Administration from Eastern Illinois University and has been employed by SEASPAR, the South East Association for Special Parks and Recreation, for 31 years. She currently serves as SEASPAR's Executive Director. She strengthened the regional development of recreation programs for people with disabilities from almost non-existent to a nationally recognized program. SEASPAR received the National Gold Medal Award for those efforts. She created a day program serving adults with disabilities which has been recognized as a model for the State of Illinois. Her greatest satisfaction though, is witnessing the personal growth and development of people with disabilities.

Noelle Greathouse



Noelle has lived her life dedicated to education, both as a student and a teacher. Noelle earned a master's in Elementary Education from Eastern Illinois University and completed her doctorate in Elementary/Early Childhood from Indiana State University. After spending 29 years teaching preschool through third grade, she joined the faculty at Eastern and in 1989 became a professor in the Department of EC/ELE/MLE. She continues to work as an NCATE Folio Reviewer for the Association for Childhood Education International, and has published papers, developed workshops for practicing teachers, and made numerous presentations at professional meetings.