

The College of Education and  
Professional Studies

**2011 Alumni Awards**

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Martin Luther King Jr.

University Union



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

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**2010-2011**  
**College of Education and**  
**Professional Studies**  
**Alumni Board members:**

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Lori Richardson  
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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.

**College of Education and  
Professional Studies  
Alumni Awards**

**Welcome**

Dr. Diane Jackman, Dean

**Introduction of Honorees**

Ms. Mary Bower, Assistant to the Dean

**Presentation of Awards**

Dr. Diane Jackman, Dean

**Closing Remarks**

Ms. Lori Richardson, Vice President of the CEPS  
Alumni Board

**2010 CEPS Alumni Award Recipients**

**CEPS Rising Star**

Colleen Coffey

Rebecca Minkwitz

**Leadership & Service**

Mark Drone

Roger Eddy

Susan Friend

**Lifetime Achievement**

Noelle Greathouse

John McNary

Mike Metzen

Sue Payton

Mike Rylko

# Morrie Reece

## Lifetime Achievement



During the 1960s, Morrie Reece served in the U.S. Navy where he taught math and physics for the U.S. Naval Nuclear Power Academy. After receiving his degree from Eastern, Morrie taught and coached at University High School in Urbana, Illinois and joined the faculty of the University of Illinois' College of Applied Life Studies.

In a move that would change the direction of his life, Morrie joined Control Data Corporation's PLATO computer-based education division in Washington D.C. in 1974. He worked with various organizations including the White House, the U.S. Senate, the Department of Defense and the Department of Education.

In 1982, Morrie joined Apple Computer—a very new company—where he held various positions within Apple's Education Division, working with K-12 school districts, colleges and universities across the country. Over the years, Morrie was a keynote speaker at dozens of education and technology conferences throughout the United States. During his years with Apple Computer, Morrie spoke to, trained and consulted with over 120,000 educators.

After serving for over 29 years, and receiving Apple Computer's Golden Apple Award 14 times, he retired in January 2011. Morrie received his bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University in Physical Education in 1972 and received an honorary doctorate from Eastern Illinois University in 2009.

## 2011 CEPS Alumni Award Recipients

### CEPS Rising Star

Drew Campbell

### Leadership & Service

Mark Koepsell

Donna Martin

William Smith

Michael Sterba

### Lifetime Achievement

Larry Closson

Morrie Reece

# Drew Campbell

## CEPS Rising Star



Drew Campbell, a fourth-grade teacher at Sullivan Elementary School, serves on the Sullivan's District Literacy Team, which is committed to developing, improving, and aligning the district's literacy gaps and standards. He has been appointed as a lead mentor for new teachers and currently mentors another fourth-grade teacher.

He coaches Sullivan High School's freshmen and JV girl's basketball team and Sullivan Middle School's track team, and has served as the Middle School's athletic director. He teaches summer school and volunteers his time with the homework hangout program after school.

Additionally, he works closely with Eastern's Elementary Education program on various integrated learning experiences that connect his fourth grade students with pre-service teachers at EIU. The experiences included hosting the pre-service teachers in his classroom and bringing the fourth grade students to campus for fine arts and reading instructional opportunities. He coordinated this program with the other fourth grade teachers at Sullivan Elementary School allowing over 150 elementary students to connect with over 50 pre-service teachers.

Drew earned two degrees from Eastern Illinois University— a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 2004 and a master's degree in Educational Administration in 2007.

# Larry Closson

## Lifetime Achievement



Larry Closson came to Eastern on a military scholarship from his service in Viet Nam where he received numerous awards including the Bronze Star for Valor, the Army Accommodation Medal for Valor and two Purple Hearts. He went on to serve for 20 years in the Illinois National Guard with distinction.

As a student at EIU, he petitioned President Fite and Dean Lowell for a new department that would accommodate an increasing number of students interested in the profession of municipal and community recreation. He was successful in the establishment of the Department of Recreation Administration at EIU and later graduated from this program.

Upon graduation, Larry became the Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for the city of Charleston for three years before starting his career in Conservation Law Enforcement. Larry held the position of Director of Conservation Law Enforcement the longest of anyone in Illinois history.

He was President of the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs and selected as one of five charter members of the association. He served as the President of the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers and as the President of the Midwest Boating Law Administrators. Larry is also a graduate of the FBI Academy.

# Michael Sterba

## Leadership & Service



Mike Sterba is the first professional Director of Parks & Recreation for the Coloma Township Park District in Rock Falls, Illinois, where he has been a vital part of the district for the past 36 years. The district grew from one to six full time employees with an additional 50 part-time and seasonal employees and park sites grew from eight to 17 during his tenure.

Professionally, Mike is the current President of Northwest Illinois Association of Park Districts; board member and past Chairman of the EIU Department of Recreation Administration Advisory Council and past board member of IPRA as well as the 1991 IAPD/IPRA Joint Conference Co-Chairman. Mike was honored as the 2004 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award by the Eastern Illinois University Department of Recreation Administration and has received the prestigious Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce Shoulder to the Wheel Award.

His community service includes the Division Chairman for Government of the Whiteside County United Way; Commissioner and past Chairman of the Whiteside County Housing Authority; President of the Rock Falls Youth Council, member of both the Woodlawn Arts Academy Board and the Whiteside County Trails and Greenways Committee.

Mike has a bachelor's degree in Recreation Administration from Eastern Illinois University.

# Mark Koepsell

## Leadership & Service



After spending 16 years serving fraternity and sorority students in various professional positions on three different college campuses, Mark Koepsell now serves the Association of Fraternal Leadership & Values as its Executive Director/CEO. Among many other responsibilities, he coordinates the planning of the largest undergraduate fraternity/sorority leadership conference in North America as well as providing several other leading edge experiences and resources to and for the fraternal community. Previously, Mark served Colorado State University as the Director of Greek Life for nine years .

Mark is actively involved in the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors and received the organization's Sue Kraft Fussell Distinguished Service Award in 2006. Other recognitions include being named the International Fraternity/Sorority Professional of the year by Beta Theta Pi Fraternity in 2004, and the same honor bestowed by Delta Chi Fraternity in 2007.

Mark completed a master's degree in College Student Affairs at Eastern Illinois University in 1992 after receiving a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts Music and Public Relations from Carroll University in Wisconsin.

# Donna Martin

## Leadership & Service



Donna K. Martin is CEO of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri . Her interest and commitment to developing youth led her to her first professional job as a teacher. From there, she transitioned to the corporate world and held increasingly responsible positions in the area of Human Resources. Prior to her post at the Girls Scouts, she was Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer for St. Louis-based Ameren Corporation. She was the first woman in Ameren’s 100-plus year history to hold the role of Senior Vice President reporting to the CEO.

Donna is actively involved in a variety of organizations and serves on numerous boards. She is a founding member of Winning Women; she serves on the its Board and is Chair of the Political Inroads Committee. She is on the Board of the Center of Creative Arts (COCA) and serves as a member of Webster University’s Board of Trustees.

She serves on the Board of the American Heart Association and chairs the 2007 Go Red for Women campaign for St. Louis. In 2004, Donna was named one of the 25 most influential business women of St. Louis. She has been appointed to serve on the Board of the United Way of Greater St. Louis.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Eastern Illinois University and a master’s degree in Education from Northern Illinois University.

# William Smith

## Leadership & Service



William A. Smith is an associate professor in the department of Education, Culture & Society and the Ethnic Studies Program at the University of Utah, where he also serves as the Associate Dean for Diversity, Access, & Equity in the College of Education as well as the Special Assistant to the President & NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative.

Dr. Smith is co-editor (with Philip Altbach & Kofi Lomotey) of the book, ***The Racial Crisis in American Higher Education: The Continuing Challenges for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*** (2002). His work has primarily focused on his theoretical contribution of Racial Battle Fatigue, which is the cumulative emotional, psychological, physiological, and behavioral effects that racial microaggressions have on People of Color. Dr. Smith’s work has appeared in such journals as *The Journal of Negro Education*, *Harvard Educational Review*, *Educational Administration Quarterly*, and *American Behavioral Scientist*.

Dr. Smith is a former postdoctoral fellow for both the Ford Foundation and the Center for Urban Educational Research and Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a former Research Associate with the CHOICES Project at the University of California, Los Angeles. He has worked as an administrator or professor at Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University, Western Illinois University, and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

He received his bachelor’s (Psychology) and master’s (Guidance and Counseling) degrees from Eastern Illinois University and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.