

College of Education and
Professional Studies
Alumni Awards

CEPS Rising Star

The recipients of the CEPS Rising Star Award are within 10 years of graduation from Eastern Illinois University. They must have excelled in their field or in the 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

Dr. Mona Davenport, CEPS Alumni Board

Mr. Scott Smith, CEPS Alumni Board

Ms. LaDonna Talbert, CEPS Alumni Board

Mr. Chad Burgett, CEPS Alumni Board

Ms. Mary Bower, Assistant to the Dean

Presentation of Awards

Dr. Diane Jackman, Dean

Closing Remarks

Ms. Lori Richardson, President of the CEPS
Alumni Board

2013-2014

College of Education and Professional Studies Alumni Board

Chad Burgett

Mona Davenport

Lisa DiNaso

John Hasten

Ingrid Minger

Lori Richardson

Scott Smith

LaDonna Talbert

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

2014 CEPS Alumni Award Recipients

CEPS Rising Star

Adam Karcz

Jessica Leach

Joe Sornberger

Sarah Watson

Leadership & Service

Richard "Corky" Emberson

Angela Gentry

Ruth Kissner

Lifetime Achievement

Steve Allen

Suzanne Barchers

Kent Johnson

David Stotlar

Adam Karcz

CEPS Rising Star



Adam Karcz is an Infection Preventionist in the Department of Infection Prevention & Epidemiology for Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University Health, in Indianapolis, Indiana. He is responsible for identifying, investigating, and analyzing hospital acquired infections, as well as designing and implementing strategies to prevent transmission of disease among patients, families, visitors, and staff.

Prior to working in Indianapolis, Adam served as a System Epidemiologist for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, in Atlanta, Georgia. While in Atlanta, he had the opportunity to work and co-author a publication with the Epidemic Intelligence Service of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention during the 2009 H1N1 influenza epidemic. He has presented to the School Nurses Associations in both Georgia and Indiana regarding Disease Prevention in the School Setting. Adam serves on the Pediatric Spine Fusion Expert Panel for Child Health Corporation of America, and holds national certifications in Public Health and Infection Prevention.

Adam earned a bachelor's degree in Health Studies from Eastern Illinois University. In addition to earning the Distinguished Service Award from Eta Sigma Gamma, a national health education honor society, Adam was awarded the Undergraduate Health Education Major of the Year Award from the American Association for Health Education.

Upon graduation from EIU, he went on to complete his Master of Public Health at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. While at Indiana University he conducted research for the Kinsey Institute and the Center for Sexual Health, and he served as an instructor for the American Red Cross. Adam's future goals involve completing his doctorate in epidemiology.

He resides in Indianapolis with his wife, Charity, and his two dogs, Scout and Louis. Adam is an avid crossfit athlete, has completed two half-ironman triathlons, and enjoys woodturning in his spare time.

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

2012 CEPS Alumni Award Recipients

CEPS Rising Star

Lea-Ann Domanski

Christy Hild

Rodney Raney

Leadership & Service

Diane Beedy

Lisa Dieker

Richard Elghammer

Suzanne Hahn

Ryan Jastrzab

David Pankau

Lifetime Achievement

Kathy Augustine

Tim Dimke

Linda Moulton

Debra Vogel

Jessica Leach CEPS Rising Star



Jessica Leach completed her Master of Science in College Student Affairs at Eastern Illinois University in 2012. Upon graduation, she became an Assistant Director of Business Career Services at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC).

In 2013, she became the first director of the Media Career Services office in the College of Media at UIUC. In this position Jessica serves as the point of contact for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and employers. She enjoys working one-on-one and with groups of students, learning from faculty, working with the College's staff, networking with alumni and strategizing with employers.

While completing her master's degree in College Student Affairs (CSA) at EIU, Jessica had a six-month graduate assistantship at EIU's Graduate School and then moved on to serve as a graduate assistant and interim program coordinator in the Student Success Center at EIU. She served as an event coordinator for CSA Days - the CSA program's primary recruitment event, co-instructed the Premier Boy's State Leadership 101 course, and completed internships with Panther Athletics, University of Illinois Alumni Association, and The Career Center at UIUC.

She wrote and defended her thesis, *Transition of Freshmen Student Athletes*, and received the Distinguished Graduate Student Award. Prior to attending graduate school, Jessica worked for over four years at a sports and entertainment marketing agency, Paragon Marketing Group, in Niles, Illinois after receiving her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2004.

She and her fiancé, Austin (an EIU collegiate athlete and graduate), currently reside in Champaign, Illinois and will be married in May 2014.

Joe Sornberger

CEPS Rising Star



Joe Sornberger is the superintendent of Palestine Community Unit School District #3 in Palestine, Illinois. While running the daily operations of the district, his responsibilities range from developing the district's budget and tax levy to facilitating Board meetings, writing grants, supervising faculty and staff, and overseeing the educational welfare of all students in the district.

Joe began his educational career in Palestine as a student-teacher in 2002. Since then he has held several positions in the school district. He has been a disciplinary aide, special education teacher, junior high social studies teacher, and junior high basketball coach.

After earning a master's degree in Education School Administration and Supervision, Joe became the principal of Palestine High School. His main goals were to improve student discipline, increase academic performance, and boost student and teacher morale. With hard work from faculty, staff, and students, the school experienced a renewed focus on education.

In 2011, the Chicago Sun Times ranked Palestine High School in the top 40 out of 700 schools in the state of Illinois for its reading and math scores. In the same year, Joe was the recipient of the James V. and Dorothy Moon Scholarship from the Illinois Association of School Administrators.

This scholarship is given to superintendent candidates who demonstrate outstanding potential as an administrator. With the help of the Moon Scholarship, he graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 2012 with a specialist in education degree in Educational Administration.

Joe and his wife Amy reside in Palestine, Illinois with their two children, Jackson and Olivia.

2013 CEPS Alumni Award Recipients

CEPS Rising Star

Thomas Beals

Steven Dollahan

Stephen Duzan

Justin Schuch

Leadership & Service

James Basham

Mark Hudson

Quincy Suckow

Amy Zaher

Lifetime Achievement

Gary Balling

Richard Bowman

James Conyers

Brian Lichtenberger

David Stotlar

Lifetime Achievement

Dr. David K. Stotlar has a doctor of education degree from the University of Utah and serves as the Director of the School of Sport & Exercise Science at the University of Northern Colorado. He teaches on the faculty in the areas of sport management and sport marketing.

He has had more than 90 articles published in professional journals and has written more than 50 textbooks and book chapters. During his career Dr. Stotlar has given over 300 presentations and workshops at national and international professional conferences.



He was selected by the USOC as a delegate to the International Olympic Academy in Greece and the World University Games Forum in Italy as well as serving as a venue media center supervisor for the 2002 Olympic Games. Dr. Stotlar has conducted international seminars in sport management and marketing for many multinational corporations and international sport managers including: the United States Olympic Committee, Qatar Olympic Committee, Bahrain Olympic Committee, China Sport Industry Association, Hong Kong Olympic Committee, the National Sports Council of Malaysia, Mauritius National Sports Council, the Chinese Taipei University Sport Federation, the government of Saudi Arabia, and the South African National Sports Congress.

He served as Chair of the Council on Facilities and Equipment of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and as a Board Member and later as President of the North American Society for Sport Management.

David received a bachelor's degree in Physical Education from Eastern Illinois University. He is a founding member of the Sport Marketing Association (SMA) and namesake for the SMA Stotlar Award for mentoring students in the discipline, and received the Southern Sport Marketing Association's lifetime achievement award in 2013.

Sarah Watson

CEPS Rising Star

Sarah Watson has worked for the Division of General Studies (DGS) serving undeclared freshmen and sophomores at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since 2006. As an advisor for DGS, Sarah coordinated support efforts for students on academic probation, overseeing the Program for Academic Support and Success (PASS). She was awarded Outstanding New Advisor by the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) in 2008.



Sarah then served as Admissions Director for DGS for two years before moving into her current role as Academic Achievement Program Director. She now coordinates academic support initiatives for over 3,000 undeclared students, specifically targeting at-risk and underrepresented populations.

With her particular interest in integrating counseling techniques, especially motivational interviewing, into academic advising, she developed a presentation addressing this topic, titled "Peeling Back the Layers: Asking the Right Questions with Students At-Risk." This presentation was awarded "Best of Conference" at the Illinois Academic Advising Association conference in 2012; "Best of Region" at the Region V conference at Kalamazoo, Michigan in Spring 2013; and was presented at the NACADA Annual Conference at Salt Lake City, Utah in the Fall 2013. Most recently, she delivered the same presentation as a keynote address for the University of Wisconsin-Madison Advising Conference.

Sarah earned a bachelor of arts in Psychology and a master of science in Community Counseling at Eastern Illinois University where she later worked in the Office of Admissions. She currently lives in Urbana, Illinois with her husband, Nathan, and son, Frank, and they expect a second baby boy in April.

Richard “Corky” Emberson

Leadership & Service



Richard (Corky) Emberson is the Superintendent of Recreation at the Urbana Park District, serving in that capacity since 2009. Corky is responsible for all programs, facilities, personnel, and budget management within the Recreation Department.

Corky received a bachelor’s degree in Recreation Administration from Eastern Illinois University in 1994. Upon graduation, Corky was hired as Director of the Paxton Park District. During his

almost seven years as Director of the Paxton Park District, he was able to lead the district through the design, construction and payment of their first Community Center.

Corky moved to the Urbana Park District where he served in various managerial positions for Fitness, Aquatics, Athletics, and Community Programs. As Superintendent, he helped lead the planning of the new Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center, which received a 2014 Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) Outstanding Facility Award. He has been instrumental in leading the district to their first Distinguished Agency Accreditation. Currently he is working to initiate a cooperative effort with Urbana public schools and local universities to find ways to reach underserved Urbana residents.

He has served on the Eastern Illinois University advisory council for the Department of Recreation Administration and has chaired the Council during the last three years. He is a member of the National Park and Recreation Association, IPRA, Central Illinois Recreation Council for Leisure Experiences, and the Illinois Association of Park Districts. Corky earned his CPRP (Certified Park and Recreation Professional Accreditation) in 2011. He also serves on the Board for Champaign-Urbana Special Recreation, a joint effort of Champaign and Urbana Park Districts.

Corky resides in Fisher, Illinois. He and his wife Sue have four children: Caleb, Josh, Phillip, and Ellie.

Kent Johnson

Lifetime Achievement

The nation’s YMCAs strengthen community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, serving more than 21 million children and adults each year. Kent Johnson has been a leader in bringing the Y’s programs and services to life since joining the organization through an EIU field-work experience as a summer camp counselor in 1979.

Today, Kent serves as the executive vice president and chief operating officer of YMCA of the USA (Y-USA), the national resource office for YMCAs in the U.S. He is responsible for leading the assessment, strategy development and delivery of resources for YMCAs nationwide.

Previous to joining Y-USA in 2007, Kent held leadership roles for the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee, including president and CEO. Prior to the Milwaukee Y, he worked for the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago and the Sheboygan, Wisconsin YMCA, where he began his full-time Y career in 1982.



Kent received his bachelor’s degree from Eastern Illinois University in 1981 and has participated in the nonprofit executive education programs at both Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management and Harvard Business School.

He has a long history of service to the community and the social sector, including his current role as co-chair of the National Human Services Assembly’s Chief Operating Officer Affinity Group. Kent has written a number of articles for publication and was profiled in *Perspective Magazine’s* “Unforgettable YMCA Professionals” special edition. He received the Distinguished Alumni award from the Eastern Illinois Department of Recreation Administration in 2013. Kent and his wife Chris, also an EIU alum, have been married for 32 years and have two grown children.

Suzanne Barchers

Lifetime Achievement

After completing a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Eastern Illinois University in 1967, Suzanne (Dumville) Barchers taught grades K-5 or remedial reading for fifteen years. She completed a master's degree in reading from Oregon State University and a doctorate of education in curriculum and design from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

After the publication in 1990 of her first book, *Creating and Managing the Literate Classroom*, she began her editorial career, building the division of



Teacher Ideas Press for Libraries Unlimited. She then established a division of teacher and children's books for Fulcrum Publishing in Colorado. From 1990-1999, Suzanne also taught graduate education classes at the University of Colorado, Denver, and continued to write for the education market.

In 2000, Dr. Barchers wrote 28 children's books for LeapFrog while serving as Managing Editor at Weekly Reader. In 2004, she accepted the position of Editor in Chief and Vice President at

LeapFrog. In 2007, she began writing and consulting fulltime. To date, Suzanne's publications list includes 215 books for teachers and children.

She is past president of the board of directors for the Association of Educational Publishers (AEP) and currently serves on the PBS Next Generation Kids Media Advisory Board. Her book awards include the Gelett Burgess Gold Medal, a World Storytelling Honor Book Award, three AEP Distinguished Achievement Awards, and two Golden Lamp Finalist Awards.

Suzanne was given the AEP President's Award for exceptional service in 2005. When not writing or consulting, she performs on flute at area churches and travels with her grandchildren and husband, Robert Calfee, Professor Emeritus at Stanford University.

Angela Gentry

Leadership & Service

Angie Gentry has served as the principal of Arcola Elementary School in Arcola, Illinois for the past 5 years. Prior to her principalship, she was an 18-year veteran teacher at the same school. She taught fourth grade for 15 years and primary Title 1 reading for three years. She also served as the district's gifted director and instructor for three years.



During her summers, Angie has remained active as both teacher and learner. When she was not taking graduate and post graduate classes, she was the director of Arcola's summer youth program and an instructor at Eastern Illinois University's *Summer of Excellence* program. She also served as a supervising elementary education instructor at EIU during the summers of 2001-2003.

Angie is eager to share her passion for education. As a classroom teacher, she had the privilege to serve as a cooperating teacher to many EIU pre-service teachers. As principal, she continues to host practicum and student teachers and enjoys a partnership with the EIU Education Scholars program. She has made educational presentations at both the college and state. She is a member of the Illinois Principals Association, the Illinois Reading Council, and the Regional Office of Education #11 Professional Development Advisory Panel.

Her current project is an effort to establish an elementary leaders' network since there is not currently an organization of its type in this area. At Eastern Illinois University, she received both a bachelor's and master's degree in Elementary Education followed by the completion of courses to obtain a Type 75 educational administrative license. In addition to her success at EIU, Angie also attained National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) status in 2009. She is now considering pursuing a doctorate degree.

Angie is the wife of Glenn Gentry and the mother of six: Meghan, Myles, Max, Markie, Mason, and Mae. She enjoys special outings and vacations with her family.

Ruth Kissner

Leadership & Service



Ruth Kissner graduated EIU in 1998 with a master of science in education degree in Guidance and Counseling. After a year working in a community rehabilitation stabilization program, Kissner was promoted to director of the program. She moved to education as the guidance counselor at Wayne City High School, a small rural high school in Southeastern Illinois in 1999.

During her tenure at Wayne City, Kissner and fellow colleagues developed an innovative program for at-risk children impacted by incarceration of a family member. The project was funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

As a member of the school's REACH Team for student assistance, Kissner and her colleagues were recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education for the group's contributions to education. She is the sponsor of the Red Ribbon Team, which is asked to participate in each year of the Operation Teen Safe Driving Grant, and places in the state competition.

Kissner is most passionate about providing her students with the tools to secure a college education. She places a priority on assisting students in the processes of admissions, scholarship application, and completion of the Federal Application for Financial Student Aid. Students from the small, rural high school (enrollment of 167) have consistently received scholarships at the state and national levels in addition to securing numerous local and regional awards.

She has served on the board of Wayne County Volunteers for Youth, a charitable organization which provides a summer day camp for children, and working with the Upward Bound program for first-generation college students. She and her husband, DeWayne, have three children, Caleb Smith, Kali Smith, and Ava Kissner. In 2012, with the support of her family, school family, and friends, Ruth joined the ranks of breast cancer survivors.

Steve Allen

Lifetime Achievement



Steve Allen graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in Speech Education in 1968. Following graduation, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and his service included a year as an infantry platoon commander in Vietnam.

When his enlistment ended, Steve returned to EIU where he earned a master of science in education degree in Student Personnel Work in 1972 and an specialist in education degree in Educational Psychology and Guidance in 1974. He served a year's internship in a model, followed by 27 years as Guidance Director for the Newman and Shiloh school districts.

During his tenure with the Newman/Shiloh schools, Steve continued to work with his professors from EIU and with Dr. Richard James to create a developmental guidance program for rural schools. After that program model was published in the national *School Counselor* journal, he and Dr. James were invited to present the program's essentials at two national conventions.

Upon retiring from the Newman/Shiloh schools, he worked part time as a counselor in the Kansas Treatment and Learning Center for the Eastern Illinois Area Special Education district for four years. Steve was a 20-year member of the Advisory Board of the EIU Department of Counseling and Student Development and supervised dozens of interns and practicum students for the department during his career.

As well as serving as an adjunct faculty member for the department for several years, Steve received the Illinois Award for his work with the Illinois Association of Student Councils. He has served on Eastern Illinois Education for Employment System's Advisory Board for several years.

He is very active in his church and in service organizations. He and his wife Dianna raised their family on a small farm near Newman and still reside there, where Steve does truck farming and raises hay. The Allens have four married children and ten grandchildren - and the extended Allen family has received 14 degrees from EIU.