

2014-2015
College of Education and
Professional Studies
Alumni Board

Chad Burgett

Lisa DiNaso

John Hasten

Sheila Lambert

Jessica Leach

Lori Richardson

Scott Smith

LaDonna Talbert

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**

Introductions

Dr. Diane Jackman, Dean

Welcome

President William Perry

**Introduction of Honorees and
Presentation of Awards**

Ms. Mary Bower, Assistant to the Dean

Ms. Lisa DiNaso, CEPS Alumni Board

Dr. Diane Jackman, Dean

Closing Remarks

Mr. John Hasten, 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

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

2015 CEPS Alumni Award

Recipients

CEPS Rising Star

Candice Holbrook

Katie Lewis

Melissa McConaha

Leah Reynolds

Lisa Taylor

Leadership & Service

Chelsey Byers

Carey Dahncke

Bridgette Hensley

Andy Kistler

Julie Wollerman

Lifetime Achievement

Chuck Balling

Barbara Hundley

Richard James

Carol Schramm

William Thiel

Candice Holbrook

CEPS Rising Star



Candice Holbrook, a Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP), is currently the Recreation Program Manager at the Oregon Park District. She graduated from the University of North Texas with a master's degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies, and a bachelor's degree in Recreation Administration from Eastern Illinois University.

In three short years, Candice has implemented a geocaching series which has

brought over 700 visits alone to the Oregon Park District sights and facilities. While revamping the summer camp program, Camp Oh-Pea-Dee, and increasing the enrollment and variety of activities, she secured a partnership with the Oregon Elementary School to offer an affordable alternative after school theatre program offering physical, emotional, and cultural growth. Candice has also increased the aging population's activity attendance through programs that offer an outlet for personal growth and new experiences.

She is a member of the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA), Illinois Association of Park Districts, Northwest Illinois Association of Parks and Recreation, and the National Recreation and Park Association, and serves on the IPRA school age/day camp and teen committees. As a member of the EIU Recreation Administration Advisory Council, Candice is also very involved with her alma mater through the Rho Phi Lambda honorary mentor program, and as a Recreation Administration Alumni Association member and the student symposium coordinator. She is active in area sports, the Oregon Lions Club, and the Reading Action Program, and serves on the Council for the Rock River Trail Initiative. Candice has been a speaker at the Southwest Park and Recreation Training Institute in Oklahoma, and has been a Session Chair at the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference.

Candice and her wife, Carissa (an EIU Communication Disorders and Sciences graduate) currently reside in Oregon, Illinois. They enjoy having outdoor adventures such as kayaking, mountain and road biking, hiking, and backpacking.

2012 CEPS Alumni Award

Recipients

CEPS Rising Star

Lea-Ann Domanski

Christy Hild

Rodney Ranes

Leadership & Service

Diane Beedy

Lisa Dieker

Richard Elghammer

Suzanne Hahn

Ryan Jastrzab

David Pankau

Lifetime Achievement

Kathy Augustine

Tim Dimke

Linda Moulton

Debra Vogel

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

Katie Lewis

CEPS Rising Star

Katie Lewis began her career as an elementary education teacher and nanny. After graduating, her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from EIU and her career path prepared and inspired her to become the enthusiastic and kid savvy founder of Strollers and Stiletto®. The business model of a "parent concierge company" is based around her knowledge of child development and background in education. This is what has guided her in assisting busy families with their kids and lives.



While working as a nanny and household manager for busy professionals in Chicago, she began to notice a pattern among all of her families: they needed assistance in managing the many aspects that come along with having children. Whether it was the anticipation for the arrival of a baby, designing a nursery, finding the perfect preschool or school, hiring and managing the most qualified nannies, planning that special birthday party, scheduling and managing all appointments, activities, and play dates for kids and family, or personal shopping; Katie got the job done. Over the next few years, she brought her positive energy and experience to families in Chicago, and realized her passion for organizing and planning.

As is the case with most successful entrepreneurs, ideas blossom from the things we are the most passionate about. This was definitely the case for Katie, who realized that she loved the personal relationship with professionals and managing the various logistical components of their family. She realized the opportunity to serve a niche clientele of busy professionals, people who never seem to have enough time for the little ones who matter the most to them. Thus, Strollers and Stiletto™ was started with a mission to help make families' lives easier by doing the things they don't have time for or just might not want to do.

In addition to running Strollers and Stiletto®, Katie is a volunteer for the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Illinois. She previously participated as a wish granter, granting wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions.

Melissa McConaha

CEPS Rising Star



Melissa McConaha earned a master's degree in Clinical Counseling in 2012. During her time at EIU, she served as a graduate assistant for Drs. Steven Conn and Heidi Larson.

With her strong research background gained at EIU, she began a doctoral program in Counselor Education and Supervision at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. She earned

her candidacy in October, 2014. Currently, Melissa serves as a graduate assistant for the Dean's Office in the College of Education.

While at Auburn, Ms. McConaha has been a university supervisor for masters level practicum students and has lectured in both graduate and undergraduate courses. Melissa served as the co-president of Iota Delta Sigma, Auburn University's chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, the international honor society for professional counselors.

She works with AuburnVOICES, an advocacy program at Auburn that often partners with Iota Delta Sigma. Between the two organizations, Melissa helped organize free leadership workshops for students and professionals in the community, recruited a team for Auburn University's Big Event (a student-run volunteer day), coordinated volunteer shifts for the local food pantry, and organized and participated in both the Prison Arts and Education Project and book/supply drives for a local high-poverty school.

Melissa maintains a strong identity as a counselor and has remained dedicated to her clinical work. She completed a year working with Federal Adult Drug Court and private clients in a private practice, a year in the psychiatric units at East Alabama Medical Center, and is currently practicing in the Columbus State University Counseling Center.

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

William Thiel

Lifetime Achievement

Dr. William B. Thiel, distinguished professor, scholar, lecturer, author, school administrator, teacher, coach, performer, community activist, and philanthropist has spent a lifetime of service to the education profession since graduating from Eastern Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in Physical Education in 1950. Bill's dream of becoming a teacher began at EIU after serving his county in military service until 1946.



He began drawing upon his preparation as an educator while coaching during his studies at EIU and was appointed to the US Olympic Power Volleyball Committee for the Tokyo Olympics in 1964. Born in 1927, as the son of an Illinois coal miner, Thiel credits his mother for encouraging him to follow in the footsteps of four generations of school teachers. Dr. Thiel has never forgotten his roots as a post-depression young man with great aspirations who has sought to bring honor and achievement to Eastern Illinois University.

Among a host of honors and recognized achievements, Dr. Thiel says he is most proud of receiving Eastern Illinois University's Distinguished Educator Award in 2004. Dr. Thiel's professional career as an educator built on his excellent foundation from EIU. He received his master's degree in Education in 1952 from Loyola University of Chicago, a Certificate of Advanced Study in School Finance from the University of Chicago, and a Doctorate in Education from Loyola University of Chicago in School Law and Finance.

Dr. Thiel proudly served in the role of teacher, superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, and associate principal in elementary and secondary schools. His curriculum vita listed over one hundred publications in print.

Leah Reynolds

CEPS Rising Star

Dr. Leah Reynolds currently serves as the Assistant Director of Civil Rights and Diversity at Eastern Illinois University where among her many responsibilities she assists with both the Threat Assessment Team and diversity training. Prior to this role, Leah served as an Assistant Director of the Office of Student Life at EIU, where she served as an advisor to the Black Student Union, and the Latino American Student Organization.



Prior to returning to Eastern Illinois University, Leah worked for several years in the community college sector at Ivy Tech Community College in Indianapolis. While at Ivy Tech, she served as the Lead Assistant Director of Academic Advising where she oversaw all of the customer service initiatives for the department.

She spearheaded the adult degree completion project which entailed developing and implementing a model for adult learners that aided in their degree completion. This work later became the focus of her doctoral dissertation entitled, "The Impact of Special Student Organizations on Retention for Community College Adult Learners." Leah also served as the judicial officer for the Indianapolis region where she had a role in the creation of the student standards policy.

Leah earned a bachelor's degree in Communications from Eastern Illinois University, where she was also a student athlete, participating for 4 years on the women's track and field team. She later earned her master's degree in College Student Affairs from EIU, where she began her journey in higher education as a graduate assistant for the TRiO program (Student Success Services). Leah went on to earn a doctorate in higher education leadership and management from Capella University and currently lives in Charleston, IL with her husband J.R., an EIU Assistant Men's Basketball coach, their two sons, Jaydon and Cameron, and their dog Champ.

Lisa Taylor

CEPS Rising Star



Lisa Taylor became the Decatur Public Schools Superintendent in March 2014, as the District's youngest superintendent, with over 12 years of experience working on behalf of Decatur Public Schools.

She has extensive educational experience working as a teacher, building level administrator and central office administrator. She has acquired a vast knowledge of the District and utilized that knowledge to lead a variety of initiatives,

including representing the Board of Education as the chair of collective bargaining, co-chairing the Dennis Lab School task force and co-chair of the Appraisal Action Committee. As co-chair, she helped design, pilot and begin implementation of the mandated performance and student growth evaluation initiatives. She also held the position of director of research and information where she oversaw all district level data collection, analysis and reporting.

Lisa has three degrees from Eastern, and her two graduate degrees are from the College of Education and Professional Studies—a master's degree in Educational Leadership and a specialist degree in Educational Administration. Before becoming superintendent, Lisa taught at both Decatur high schools (Eisenhower and MacArthur), served as assistant principal at MacArthur High School and high school summer school principal, and worked in central office administration.

She serves on the Decatur Family YMCA board of directors and is a member of the Decatur/Macon County Education Coalition. She also serves on the Education Committee for *Grow Decatur* and is a member of the Illinois Association of School Administrators. In July 2014, she was named one of the 20 leaders under 40 who make a difference in Central Illinois. Lisa and her husband Rich have three children.

Carol Schramm

Lifetime Achievement



Carol earned a bachelor's degree in Physical Education with a minor in Safety and Driver Education from EIU. She began her teaching career in Pana, Illinois at the junior high before moving to the high school in 1970. EIU was instrumental in developing Carol's interest in field hockey (Instructor Helen Moody) and badminton (Dr. Robert Hussey). These activities later evolved into interscholastic athletic competition for Pana High School girls.

After earning a master's degree in Safety Education from Central Missouri State University, Carol along with Pana Superintendent Carroll Lowe and Assistant Superintendent Bruce Wieneke, developed interscholastic competition for girls in five sports and was the sole coach for all girls' athletic competition for the first five years of the program.

Carol was named Pana School District Athletic Director in 1982 and remained in that position through 2009 when she retired after a 44-year career in the Pana school district. She was elected to the Illinois ICGA Hall of Fame in 1995 and received the Pana Jaycees Service and Humanity Award in 1981.

Giving back to a community that adopted her back in 1965, Carol Schramm decided to devote part of her retirement life to volunteering in the community. She served on the Lake Land College Board of Trustees, and currently serves on the Pana Community Hospital Board of Directors and on the United Way of Christian County Board. Carol is a volunteer coach for Pana schools' track and field teams, and delivers "Meals on Wheels" for Pana Hospital.

Upon retirement, an Athletic Scholarship was developed in Carol's honor, and on April 17, 2010, the Pana High School track was named the "CAROL SCHRAMM TRACK."

Richard James

Lifetime Achievement



Dr. Richard James earned a bachelor's degree in English and an a master's degree in Education Guidance and Counseling from EIU. He received his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Indiana State University and became a guidance counselor at Jefferson Junior High School in Mattoon, Illinois. While at Mattoon, he created a nationally validated Title III ESEA innovative educational program targeting underachieving students. One of the

innovations of that program was an integrated pupil personnel services team of school counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers.

In 1977 he made the decision to go into higher education at the University of Memphis, where he has taught since then, and is now an Earl Crader Professor of Education. During his 37 years at the University of Memphis, over 2000 students passed through his classes. Dr. James chaired thesis committees for 35 doctoral and 45 educational specialist students. He authored numerous articles and chapters in professional journals and edited works, and given over a hundred national presentations.

He co-authored two best selling books, Theories and Strategies of Counseling and Psychotherapy and Crisis Intervention Strategies. He is one of the founders of the Memphis Police Department Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program which seeks to diffuse and de-escalate out-of-control individuals who are mentally ill. This program, started in 1987, is now used in over 2400 police jurisdictions in the U.S. jurisdictions in the United States. Dr. James trained mental health workers, consumer advocates, and police officers from all 50 states as well as Canada, Australia, Sweden, Jamaica and Liberia.

Currently Dr. James is staying busy with his teaching responsibilities, consulting and training with the Memphis Police Department CIT, and developing intervention/prevention groups for both male and female incarcerates who are diagnosed with mental illness. Dr. James and his wife Susan, an EIU alumna, have two daughters.

Chelsey Byers

Leadership & Service



Chelsey Byers graduated from EIU in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in Recreation Administration with a Therapeutic Option. After receiving her degree, she took a position with the Illinois Veteran's Home in Manteno, Illinois as a Recreation Therapist for a 40-bed Alzheimer's/Dementia Unit.

Chelsey returned to Eastern and graduated with her master's degree in Gerontology in 2004. She then moved to St. Louis to work for the Alzheimer's Association, St. Louis Chapter where she was a Professional Education Coordinator. In this position she covered a total of 38 counties in Missouri and Illinois, providing education on Alzheimer's and related dementias for professionals working with individuals with dementia.

For the past seven years Chelsey has worked for University of Illinois Extension Office as a Family Life Educator. She started in this position in Kankakee County and more recently moved to the Champaign County office. During this time at U of I Extension, she presented at over 25 professional conferences locally, nationally and internationally.

Chelsey received both local and national awards during her career but the two she received this past fall are her most treasured. She was recognized nationally for her work at the U of I Extension Office and was awarded the North Central Region *Early Career Award* for Epsilon Sigma Phi as well as the *Distinguished Alumni Award* from Eastern Illinois University's Department of Recreation Administration.

Chelsey belongs to the following professional organizations: American Society on Aging, Epsilon Sigma Phi, National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, and Sigma Phi Omega. She has served on Eastern Illinois University's Alumni Association Board since 2009.

Carey Dahncke

Leadership & Service



Throughout his career, Carey Dahncke distinguished himself as a thoughtful and driven education professional - as a teacher, principal and school leader.

Carey's passion for empowering the most vulnerable in society through holistic education practices emerged as a result of his experience at Shelthorpe Community Primary School in Loughborough, England, where he taught impoverished children. Upon his return to the U.S., he assumed leadership roles

at various Indianapolis public schools. Carey received a master's degree in Educational Administration from EIU in 1996.

Since 2006, Carey has led Christel House Academy (CHA) in Indianapolis, assuming greater levels of responsibility as the organization has grown from one K-8 school serving approximately 450 students to a network of public charter schools at multiple Indianapolis locations serving nearly 1,000 students. CHA's students are impoverished, living in the inner-city, and underserved by traditional education.

Carey began immediate turnaround efforts at CHA after the school had experienced multiple years of high teacher and administrator turnover that resulted in poor student academic performance. He introduced the "Our Success" school community model: emphasizing developing teachers as instructional leaders through collaborative mentoring and then pairing seasoned teachers with early career teachers. A partnership with the University of Indianapolis has proven to be mutually beneficial as CHA serves as a "laboratory" for education students to apply their studies in a real urban school.

CHA earned numerous accolades under Carey's leadership including: the Indiana Distinguished Title 1 School Award, The National Forum- Schools to Watch Award, and the National MetLife - NASSP Breakthrough Schools Award. Carey was recognized as local Teacher of the Year, District Principal of the Year, Title 1 Distinguished Principal, and NASSP Breakthrough School Principal.

Barbara Hundley

Lifetime Achievement



Barbara was raised on a farm in Bethany, Illinois with her twin sister Beverly. She earned a bachelor's degree in Physical Education from EIU in 1965. Her first teaching position was in Shelbyville, Illinois at the junior high level. She drove back to EIU on nights and weekends to complete her master's degree in Guidance and Counseling. Following state-wide budget cuts, she pursued a career as a social services counselor.

In 1977, Barbara began a 30-year career at the University of Illinois, starting as the Assistant Director for Career Development and Placement. She later created the Alumni Career Center in Chicago. She served as a consultant, business leader, and faculty member, touching thousands of adults in the career management and job coaching field.

Barbara received the highest awards from The Midwest Association of Colleges and Employers: the Founders Award in 2001 and the Superior Leadership Award in 1999 while serving in many nationally elected leadership roles with career service organizations. In 1999, Chancellor Michael Aiken asked Barbara to return to the Urbana campus to become Associate Chancellor for Alumni Relations and Vice President of the Alumni Association, one of the nation's largest. Her retirement in 2007 marked the end of a 42-year career.

She received the Distinguished Alumna Achievement Award from Eastern Illinois University in 2008 and was appointed to the EIU Foundation Board the following year. Some of her community activities include: University of Illinois Foundation Board, Vision Council for the United Way of Champaign County, Champaign Park District Foundation Board, Japan House Advisory Board and Docent, 4H Alumni Board, EIU Foundation Board, and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Board. Barbara resides in Champaign and Naperville, Illinois with her husband, Charles, who is a former Associate Executive Director of State Universities Retirement System and vice-president of Business Development for The Northern Trust Company in Chicago.

Chuck Balling

Lifetime Achievement



Chuck Balling serves as the Executive Director of the Glenview Park District and after 40 years of service in the field of parks, recreation and conservation, he will retire in March 2015. During his career, Chuck oversaw many of the Park District facility improvement projects, was a strong proponent of environmental and historical initiatives and fostered intergovernmental cooperation.

Chuck has actively served at several of the top Park Districts in Illinois

including Naperville, Homewood-Flossmoor, Elmhurst, and Gurnee. He is past Chairman of Park District Risk Management Agency, member of the Glenview Noon Rotary Club and the Glenview Values Committee, and serves on the Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association Board of Directors.

He received the 1989 Distinguished Alumni Award from EIU's Recreation Administration department, 1999 Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) Professional of the Year Award, 2011 IPRA Fellow Award and 2012 IPRA Robert Artz Lifetime Achievement Award.

Chuck has written a number of articles for both the Illinois Park and Recreation and the Athletic Business magazines. He received his bachelor's degree in Recreation Administration from Eastern Illinois University in 1975 and a master's degree from DePaul University in 1998.

Chuck is passionate about the field of parks and recreation and feels privileged to have served others throughout his career and through volunteerism. Following retirement, Chuck will be celebrating his 25th wedding anniversary with his wife, Marlene, and enjoying Glenview's parks and recreational opportunities with his three daughters, Anna, Julia and Allie.

Bridgette Hensley

Leadership & Service



Dr. Bridgette Hensley, graduated from EIU in 1991 with a master's degree in Community Counseling. After working with emotionally and behaviorally disturbed youth and their families for several years, she returned to school and earned a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology.

Since 2000, Dr. Hensley has had the privilege of working in primary and secondary education, as well as outpatient behavioral health. While working with the Wichita Public School District, she helped implement a school based mental health program to serve underserved students. She became interested in suicide prevention and was a founding member of the Wichita Public School Suicide Prevention Team which provided suicide prevention training and education to teachers and parents.

During her time at Marquette University, Dr. Hensley provided leadership for a federal grant focused on campus suicide prevention. She conducted countless suicide prevention trainings nationally and internationally. Dr. Hensley has served as an adjunct professor at Marquette University, Carroll University, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, and Viterbo University, creating courses such as Mental Health Trends on Campus and Introduction to Suicidology.

Currently, she is a staff psychologist with Mayo Clinic Health System at Winneshiek Medical Center in Decorah, Iowa. She works with children, adolescents and adults struggling with a broad array of mental health issues. Staying active in education, she is a psychological consultant to the local public high school and is currently helping to develop a mental health program aimed at decreasing drop outs among high-risk students. Dr. Hensley is married and lives with her partner, stepdaughter, and their furry family members. She is a volunteer with the Humane Society of Northeast Iowa.

Andy Kistler

Leadership & Service



Currently the Associate Executive Director of ARC—Community Support Systems (ARC-CCS) Andy Kistler graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in Special Education in 1992. Following graduation, he taught at South Central Middle School in Kinmundy, Illinois before accepting a position at Effingham High School, in Effingham, Illinois.

He transitioned into the field of adult rehabilitation services when he accepted a management position at ARC-CSS in Teutopolis, Illinois. ARC-CSS is a not-for-profit community service agency that provides employment, residential, family support, and advocacy services to individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in East Central Illinois. Andy later earned a master's degree in Rehabilitation Administration and Services from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois.

Andy recently celebrated his 20th year of employment at ARC. During his tenure with ARC-CSS, he oversaw the expansion of the agency's fast-paced, outcome driven community employment program into Effingham, Jasper, Crawford, Lawrence, Richland, Clay, and Shelby counties. He has been instrumental in securing numerous grants to expand supports and services for individuals with disabilities and has fostered relationships with school districts within the region to introduce students and their families to the adult service system.

The ARC-CSS Board of Directors recently announced that Andy will fill the agency's executive director position upon the retirement of current executive director. Andy resides in Effingham, Illinois with his wife Cheri and their two daughters Taylor and Brooke.

Julie Wollerman

Leadership & Service



Julie graduated from EIU in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in Marketing. After working for a farm service company she decided to go back to school to become a teacher and earned a teaching license at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Her first job was working with students and families who exhibited poor school attendance.

Julie worked in three counties with 11 different districts and found her passion for at-risk students. Seeing the challenges the students faced, she felt compelled to work harder at providing these students with as many opportunities as possible.

Returning to EIU to earn both master's and specialist degrees in Educational Administration, Julie found that her EIU education helped her to mold a small classroom of six students into a regional program of two alternative high schools and two junior high safe schools program that now serve more than 110 students each year. She has made it a priority to hire quality teachers and team members and to support them to become even better as they serve these students and their families. The attendance program she once worked with is still going strong and will soon serve five counties. Julie continues to strive to see that all schools and families can find more assistance in solving attendance problems.

As the Regional Superintendent of Schools for Bond, Fayette, and Effingham Counties, Julie continues to place a high priority on serving the needs of schools and students. She wants to help the region's teachers and schools find the opportunities along with the challenges in today's world.

Julie serves on the boards of the Vandalia Alumni and Friends School Foundation, the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools, the Illinois Coalition for Education of At-Risk Youth, and the Old Capitol Foundation, as well as leading a local 4H group. She and her husband, Lynn, have four children.