





# College of Education and Professional Studies 2017 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.

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## **College of Education and Professional Studies 2016-2017 Alumni Board**

Lisa DiNaso	Jessica Hogue
Abby Durbin	Sheila Lambert
Amanda Harvey	Kevin Ross
Scott Smith	

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

**Welcome**

Dr. Diane H. Jackman, Dean

**Introduction of Honorees and  
Presentation of Awards**

Ms. Mary Bower, Assistant to the Dean

Ms. Lisa DiNaso, CEPS Alumni Board

Dr. Diane H. Jackman, Dean

**Closing Remarks**

Dr. Diane H. Jackman, Dean

# **2017 CEPS Alumni Award Recipients**

## **CEPS Rising Star**

Lee Althoff  
Ericka Duncan  
Andrea Grant  
Alyssa Swan  
Kyle Thompson

## **Leadership & Service**

Brad Carter  
Lindsey Frank  
Sheila Mingee  
Gina Parker  
Jody Stone

## **Lifetime Achievement**

Alan Hargrave  
Sandra Johnson  
Jill Owen  
Joy Russell

# Lee Althoff

## CEPS Rising Star



Lee Althoff, a learning behavior specialist (LBS), is currently teaching at Effingham Jr. High as a special education teacher. In this role, he provides instruction in English to learners with disabilities, co-teaches in an inclusive general education class, and provides resource support for students in inclusive learning settings.

He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Special Education (LBS1) from Eastern Illinois University in 2014. Besides his teaching position, Lee is head coach of two sports—soccer and tennis.

During his short time at Effingham Junior High, he has established a commitment to inclusion of students and adults with disabilities in multiple ways. Lee was responsible for the creation and implementation of the “Perfect Pals” program which pairs high school students with adults with disabilities in the community. This unique program has paved the way for a greater understanding of and commitment to advocacy for adults with disabilities giving them more opportunities to interact with their communities and the individuals who reside there.

He has been taken the lead in advocating for inclusion in youth sports in his school and community. Working as a coach for both the high school varsity soccer and tennis teams, Lee has encouraged students with disabilities to not only join the team, but truly be a part of the team through practices, playing time, and a whole team celebration of uniqueness in its players. This is a significant accomplishment as it requires commitment and skill in motivation, integration, and coordination with the team coaches to make this inclusion not only possible but successful.

Lee founded the “Effingham Crossroads Youth Club Soccer” program and is involved with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Effingham County’s YBNext program that provides young professionals networking and leadership opportunities in the community.

Lee has just purchased his own home in Effingham, IL, where he resides with his four-year-old Bulldog, Chubs.

# Ericka Duncan

## CEPS Rising Star

Since graduating from Eastern Illinois University, Ericka Duncan's public health career has been filled with opportunity and learning. She completed a 14-week internship with the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) while at EIU, which included developing outreach and educational materials for doctor's offices about lead poisoning.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in Health Studies from EIU in 2013, she became a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Undergraduate Public Health Scholar (CUPS). During her 11-week service as a CUPS, Ericka worked with the Morehouse College – Project IMHOTEP, and the CDC and Prevention/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Her service included completing a research analysis where her findings informed stakeholders of research conducted by training facilities, and helped to develop department success stories for continued financial support.



She served with the Illinois Public Health Association and the University of Illinois–Chicago, providing health education to at-risk teens and young women at-risk of or suffering from domestic violence. After completing this project, Ericka entered the Master of Public Health (MPH) program at the University of South Florida, concentrating in health education and adolescent behavioral health.

In addition to serving as a graduate assistant, she completed her own research where she assessed suicide prevention knowledge and training among the Office of Student Support Programs and Services staff in the Pasco County School District in Tampa, Florida. She presented her findings at the 29th Annual Research and Policy Conference for Child, Adolescent and Young Adult Behavioral Health for researchers and Pasco County School District staff. Ericka served with the Senior Medicare Patrol, providing outreach and education to seniors and Medicare recipients on health care fraud and protection.

Upon graduation from the MPH program, she was accepted to Florida A&M University's Doctor of Public Health program, which she is deferring until next year. Currently, Ericka is a Public Health Advisor with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention serving in Tampa, Florida as a Disease Intervention Specialist. She uses her health education training to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, STDs, and HIV/AIDS, connecting patients to care if needed.

This is only the beginning of her public health career—she's excited to see what's next.

# Andrea Grant

## CEPS Rising Star



Andrea Grant was born in Mississippi and raised in Gastonia, North Carolina. She earned a degree in political science and sociology from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. Her student affairs career began when she served as a Resident Director at High Point University in North Carolina. Andrea then took a position at North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina as a Complex Director encouraging students' cultural and leadership development.

She was inspired to continue her education to serve underrepresented student populations while they pursue their educational dreams. At Eastern Illinois University, she received a master's degree in College Student Affairs.

After graduate school, Andrea worked as a Community Director in Residence Life and then an Assistant Director of the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Managing a multicultural mentoring program, she served as an advisor to the Emory Black Student Union and various student organizations, and as a member of the University Diversity Senate.

As the current Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Louisiana State University (LSU), Andrea continually emphasizes principles of equity, inclusion, and social justice while serving all students and collaborating with various campus partners to bring vital resources to the LSU community. She chairs the LSU SPRINGFEST Recruitment Weekend for underrepresented high achieving high school students, serves on the Black Faculty Staff Caucus, LSU Diversity Action Team, the Multicultural Student Leadership Conference Committee, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Committee.

Andrea is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), and American Association of Blacks in Higher Education.

She was recognized as Complex Director of the Year at North Carolina Central University in 2010 and received the prestigious Emory Award of Distinction for outstanding contributions to the Emory community in 2016. That same year, she was the recipient of the Campus Life Excellence in Service Award for her involvement in taking students to the Mississippi Delta for a Habitat Build and the exploration of deeply-rooted social issues. In January 2017, she had the honor of introducing the Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Reception Keynote Speaker, A.P Tureaud Jr., the first African American undergraduate to enroll at Louisiana State University. Andrea is the proud daughter of Hugh B. Grant and Pamela Grant, who continue to be her greatest supporters.



# Alyssa Swan

## CEPS Rising Star

Alyssa Swan earned her master's degree in Clinical Counseling from EIU in 2014. While at EIU, she served as a graduate assistant in the Department of Counseling and Student Development with Drs. Richard Roberts, Gloria Leitschuh, and Angela Yoder. With a strong research foundation and experience gained at EIU, Alyssa began a doctoral program at the University of North Texas (UNT).

She is currently a third year doctoral student in the Counseling Program, specializing in play therapy, and completing her dissertation research, Child Parent Relationship Therapy for Adoptive Families of Preadolescents. During her EIU and UNT programs, Alyssa has written a number of publications and conference papers, and made presentations at international, national, and state professional conferences.



She is a Toulouse Graduate Research Fellow at UNT and Assistant Director at the UNT Center for Play Therapy. This center is known worldwide for its premier doctoral-level training in play therapy as well as ongoing training for play therapists. It is renowned for its searchable database of play therapy outcomes research which Alyssa helped create. Working with the Center's director, she handles the daily management of operations including coordination of 14 days of annual conferences and workshops. Alyssa has also co-written several research grants at the national, state, and university levels.

While co-teaching child and family counseling doctoral and master's level courses, she also teaches an undergraduate counseling course. At UNT, Alyssa served as a university supervisor for master's level practicum students and as a member of seven research teams. She also had the opportunity to serve on a year-long interdisciplinary assessment team.

As a Licensed Professional Counselor-Intern in the state of Texas, Alyssa provides weekly counseling services to children, teens, and adults in clinical and school settings. It is her hope and mission to facilitate opportunities for her students and clients to grow and experience their incredible and unique potentials to impact the world and people. Alyssa is honored to have relationships with her clients, students, mentors, and colleagues and credits these relationships for her growth as a counseling professional and advocate.

# Kyle Thompson

## CEPS Rising Star



After graduating from Warrensburg-Latham High School, Kyle Thompson attended Richland Community College in Decatur Illinois, earning two associates degrees. From there, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Illinois, Springfield. In 2011, Kyle returned to school where he earned a master's and educational specialist degrees in Educational Leadership at Eastern Illinois University. He then entered the Ph.D. program at Indiana State University where he recently completed the requirements for a doctor of philosophy in Educational Leadership.

Kyle began his career at Windsor Jr. and Sr. High School where he taught and coached for 5 years. He spent a year as an assistant principal in Chester, Illinois before moving to the Regional Office of Education (ROE) #11 in east Central Illinois. In 2013, Kyle was appointed as the Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools of ROE #11, a position in which he continues to serve the Illinois counties of Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie, and Shelby.

Kyle is a past recipient of the College of Education and Professional Studies Telefund scholarship and the Gregory R. Ulm Endowment in Educational Leadership at Indiana State University. In 2015, he received the IASA Exemplary Service to Education Award in recognition of exemplary leadership contributions to Illinois public schools, the field of school administration, and students.

He credits Eastern Illinois University with building his leadership capacity and helping him become a successful educational advocate. As a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Mattoon, Kyle serves on their school board. He is a member of the Illinois Association of School Administrators and the Illinois Principals Association, as well as the Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce. He also volunteers for the Special Olympics and coaches local youth sports.



Kyle resides in Charleston with his wife, Chantel, and their children, Ainsley and Jack. Recently, the family chartered the first Little Free Library in Charleston in an effort to promote literacy within the community. Together, they love traveling, building with Legos, eating pizza, and watching the St. Louis Cardinals.



# Brad Carter

## Leadership & Service

Dr. Brad Carter graduated from EIU in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Spanish. Upon graduating from EIU, Brad started his teaching career in Palatine School District 15 as a sixth grade teacher.

He quickly became involved with many leadership opportunities and received his master's degree in Educational Leadership from National Louis University (NLU) in 2003. This past summer, Brad received his doctorate in Educational Leadership from NLU.



Soon after receiving his master's degree, he became an administrator in Schaumburg School District 54. By the age of 30, Brad was leading change as the building principal at John Muir Literacy Academy. John Muir was one of three schools in the state of Illinois (out of 150 schools) that successfully met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) benchmarks so that it could be removed from the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) watch list.

He received a "Those Who Excel" Meritorious Award of Service from the ISBE for school administrators due to the John Muir's academic growth and success. From 2011 to 2016, Brad served as Elizabeth Blackwell School's principal and continued to receive accolades for student performance. In 2016, Chicago Magazine ranked Blackwell School as a "Top 20" school in Suburban Cook County. Brad encouraged professional development in himself, his teachers, and his administrators in order to help children succeed.

Most recently, Brad became a principal in Arlington Heights School District 25 at Westgate School which is a "Leader in Me" school that instills the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey. Students and staff are encouraged to engage in various leadership opportunities throughout the school and community. Students lead school-wide assemblies and guided community tours, and actively find ways to give back to the Arlington Heights Community.

In Schaumburg, he served as a member of the board of trustees of the Schaumburg Township Elementary School Foundation. Currently, he serves on the Northwest Chargers Hockey Association board as chair of the Safe Sports Committee. Brad and his wife, Tracy (an EIU Elementary Education graduate and Swim Team Member) currently reside in Hoffman Estates, Illinois. They have three children - Holden, Hadley, and Hudson.

# Lindsey Frank

## Leadership & Service

Lindsey Frank (Dalesandro) graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 2010 with a bachelor's degree with a dual licensure in special education (Learning Behavior Specialist 1) and general elementary education. After graduating, she became an interventionist for kindergarten through eighth grade at Clarence E. Culver School (District 71) in Niles, Illinois and is currently the Learning Behavior Specialist for kindergarten through fifth grade at Devonshire Elementary School (District 59) in Des Plaines, Illinois.



She received an English as a Second Language Endorsement through National Louis University (NLU) in 2015, and has started work on a master's degree in Administration and Supervision with a principal endorsement at NLU. Lindsey has been accepted into the National Society of Leadership and Success (Sigma Alpha Pi), the honorary fraternity for leaders.

While a student at EIU, she served as President of the Student Council for Exceptional Children and the IEA/NEA-Student Education Association. She was also a member of Best Buddies and Sigma Rho Epsilon, which is the honorary fraternity for special education majors. Since then, she continues to remain active at the state level for the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children (ICEC), and has held several ICEC Executive Board/Committee positions.

At EIU, Lindsey was the ICEC Student Representative to encourage future educators to become actively involved within the field of special education, and now is a mentor and supervisor to the Student Representative. Lindsey is currently the ICEC Exceptional Children's Week and "Yes I Can" Awards Chairperson.



She is working to re-establish Exceptional Children's Week (ECW) within the state of Illinois to spread awareness and foster understanding of exceptionalities, especially in children and youth. She wrote and received the Proclamation from Governor Bruce Rauner to recognize Exceptional Children's Week, which is the first week of May each year.

During a class activity at EIU, she had to create a "life motto" which she has embedded into her daily life: "Be generous with your time, go where others are afraid to go, give it all you've got, and love what you do."

# Sheila Mingee

## Leadership & Service

Sheila Mingee is the President of Lakeview College of Nursing, a private single-purpose institution of higher education, where she is responsible for the overall administrative operations and management of the College at the campuses in Danville and Charleston, Illinois. She began her career at Lakeview College of Nursing in 1989 as the college secretary — progressing from a support staff position to the chief executive by way of positions including the Associate Chief Executive Officer, Director of Administrative Services and Facilities Management, and Administrative Assistant to the Dean.



Sheila is a graduate of Danville Area Community College. She graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Career and Organizational Studies. She returned to Eastern Illinois University to earn a Master of Science degree in Educational Administration. The board of directors and administration at Lakeview College of Nursing encouraged Sheila to return to college and mentored her for leadership opportunities. She also earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Capella University.

Throughout Sheila's tenure at Lakeview she has managed balanced budgets and led strategic planning, new building construction, initiatives to improve faculty and staff development, and accreditation coordination. Under her leadership, campus security has increased and the number of student scholarships has been greatly enhanced by securing \$1.5 million to fund future scholarships. Although the job of a college president is demanding, Sheila truly understands the multiple demands on those employed on a small college campus and has built trusting relationships with faculty, staff, students, board members, and the surrounding community.



In 2016, the faculty and staff of Lakeview College voted to award Sheila with the Distinguished Service Award. She was also nominated and accepted into the 2015-2016 Academic Leadership Academy at Penn State University.

Sheila resides in Georgetown, Illinois with her husband Rusty. They have four children: Josh Mingee, Brittani (Brandon) O'Hair, Tristyn, and Kaden Mingee; and four grandchildren Keagen and Kooper O'Hair and Rylee and Austyn Mingee.

# Gina Parker

## Leadership & Service

Gina Parker graduated from EIU in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in Physical Education (PE) with K-12 Certification and a minor in Health Education. After receiving her degree, she took a position as a graduate assistant in the Physical Education department at EIU. Gina received her master's degree in Physical Education in 2000.

She took a position at Berwyn North School District 98 as an elementary physical education teacher. In this position she has taught first through sixth grade PE and adapted PE. Gina was recruited by district administrators to serve on many district committees as co-chair. She also serves the district as a trainer for Crisis Prevention Intervention. In the 17 years Gina has been at Berwyn, she has shown herself as a lifelong learner by completing a master's degree in Leadership, attaining endorsements in Middle School Health, English Language Learners, and an approval in Adapted PE.



Early in her career, Gina started volunteering with the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (IAHPERD) as a Jump/Hoops For Heart Committee member. She went on to serve as the Northeastern District President of IAHPERD twice and as the President of IAHPERD in 2010. In these roles, Gina has served the profession of Health and Physical Education through advocacy, education, and mentoring.

During her career, she received awards for her work as an outstanding educator and for her service to the profession of education. Gina was recognized by IAHPERD as both Young Professional of the Year in 2005 and Elementary PE Teacher of the Year in 2015. The next year, she was given the service award for her twenty years of volunteering and advocating in the area of PE and Health.

Gina published an article in the SHAPE America "Pulse" magazine, served on national committees, and received two Illinois House of Representatives Commendations for her work in Physical Education. The Midwest Region of the Italian American National Union recognized her as a David Award recipient in the area of education for her work furthering the profession.

She is always looking for opportunities to further her education to help her students and her peers.

# Jody Stone

## Leadership & Service

Jody Stone graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in Political Science in 1993 and a master's degree in College Student Affairs (CSA) in 1995. While completing his master's degree, he worked as an Associate Hall Counselor in McKinney Hall.

After graduation, he was hired as a full-time Residence Hall Director at Eastern Illinois University in Thomas Hall from 1995-1997. Since then, Jody has received a number of promotions at EIU including both Assistant and Associate Director of Housing. In 2016, he was promoted to his current position as the Senior Associate Director of Housing and Dining.

Jody has been active professionally, currently serving as the Chair-elect for the Association of College and University Housing Officers International (ACUHO-I) Foundation Board. Jody has also served as the President of the Great Lakes Association of College and University Housing Officers (GLACUHO) in 2008, in addition to a variety of other roles within ACUHO-I and GLACUHO since 2001.

During his career at EIU, he has given presentations at many professional conferences locally, regionally, and nationally. One of Jody's favorite endeavors is serving as an Instructor for the University Foundations course each fall semester, something he has done since 2005.

He works very closely with many of the CSA graduate students and alumni—supervising, mentoring, and providing career guidance. Jody serves on several thesis committees every year in College Student Affairs and feels that these opportunities help him stay current and invested in the future of higher education and student affairs.

Jody has received several accolades throughout his career, but this award and the Dr. Jack Collins GLACUHO Distinguished Service Award are two of his most treasured. He and his wife Jane (EIU '94) of 22 years have three sons, Jake (20), Jace (18), and Jack (14) along with a cocker spaniel (Jessie) and two cats (Vanilla and Gypsy). He also loves the outdoors, traveling, golfing, drumming, and is an unapologetic and proud St. Louis Cardinals Baseball fan.



# Alan Hargrave

## Lifetime Achievement



Raised in Johnsonville, Illinois in Wayne County, Dr. Alan Hargrave earned a bachelor's degree in Zoology at Eastern Illinois University. During this time, he was actively involved in the Residence Hall Association, Student Senate, and the National Residence Hall Honorary, and served as a Resident Assistant in Stevenson Hall. These experiences deeply influenced his desire to work with students in higher education, and he enrolled in the Master's program in Student Affairs at EIU.

After graduation, Alan worked at Murray State University and the University of Southern Mississippi before taking a position as Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life at Ball State University where he has been since 1986. He completed his Doctor of Education degree in Adult and Community Education with a cognate in Higher Education at Ball State University.

Alan is now the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services and Director of Housing and Residence Life. In addition to direct responsibility for the Housing and Residence Life program, he supervises the Departments of Public Safety, Parking, Counseling and Health Services, and Student Rights and Community Standards. Alan chairs the university's Crisis Management Team, and serves on the Campus Design Committee, the Continuing Accreditation Committee for the Higher Learning Commission, the Strategic Initiatives Committee, and the Enterprise Risk Management Committee.

He is currently working with campus planners and architects on the construction of two new residence halls with another 1,000 beds to be completed within the next three years. Alan initiated the Living-Learning programs at Ball State several years ago, which now provide enhanced learning opportunities for students in 13 academic and theme-based communities.

He has given numerous presentations at regional and international conferences during his career, and served on the Executive Board of the Association of College and University Housing Officers-International, including a term as President. As an adjunct faculty member in the Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education master's program at Ball State, Alan teaches an Introduction to Student Affairs course each fall.

Outside of work, a passion for Russell Terriers takes a significant amount of Alan's time. He breeds and shows champion Russell Terriers, including Padre who was the #1 Russell Terrier of the American Kennel Club for 2016.



# Sandra Johnson

## Lifetime Achievement



Sandra J. (Trojello) Johnson grew up on a farm in Stillman Valley, IL. with her two younger siblings after losing her mother at the age of seven. Her life's goal to become a teacher was inspired by her 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Hills, who demonstrated the true meaning of teaching by meeting the needs of every child. It was then that Sandy decided that she wanted to be a teacher who would set high standards, but always include kindness, compassion, and understanding for her students; this was the beginning of Sandy's mission to make her mother proud!

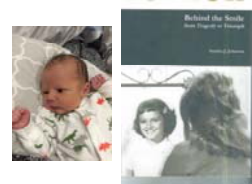
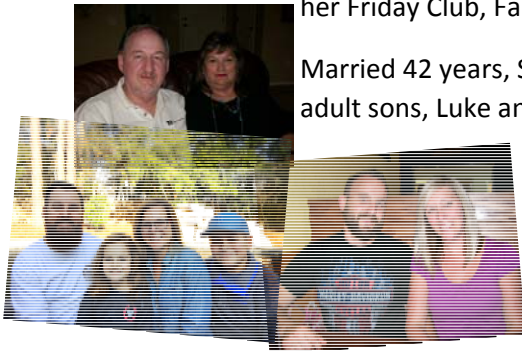
After graduating from Eastern Illinois University with a degree in Elementary Education/Special Education in 1973, Sandy began teaching in elementary classrooms, and moved to Charleston High School to teach students with exceptional learning needs. During those years, Sandy earned a master's degree in education at EIU. Sandy was a recipient of the "Education is the Key Award" given by the Regional Office of Education #11 and the Don Grewell "Special Special Educator" Award.

During her career at Charleston High School, she served as head of the Special Education department where under her guidance, her department permitted EIU practicum students to observe teachers teaching in their classrooms every semester. Sandy then began teaching at EIU in 2003. She had several opportunities to conduct research independently and collaboratively on Transition and Common Core; the results of her research were shared at conferences locally as well as nationally.

Sandy began "The Friday Club" in 2013 for adults with disabilities that meets every Friday. She became a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and received the "Advocate of the Year" award for central Illinois in 2016. One of Sandy's greatest accomplishments was having her book, Behind The Smile, published in 2014. It is her story, turning a tragedy into triumph. Half of all proceeds are donated to CASA. After retiring with 42½ years in the field of education, Sandy has continued her work with CASA, her Friday Club, Family Matters, and the Special Olympics Family Fun Festival.

Married 42 years, Sandy and her husband Brad live in Charleston and have two adult sons, Luke and Tyler, and five grandchildren. Sandy's life has

been about being a role model for her children and grandchildren by not merely believing in what is right and good, but acting on it. She hopes she has made her mother proud!



# Jill Owen

## Lifetime Achievement



Dr. Jill Owen earned her bachelor's degree in Physical Education with minors in Health Education and Safety and Driver Education. She began her teaching career in Neoga, Illinois at the junior/senior high school where she also coached volleyball, track, and cheerleading. After six years at Neoga, Jill came back to EIU and earned a master's degree in Exercise Science, serving as an Adult Fitness graduate assistant under Dr. Tom Woodall, who has been her mentor and dear friend from that day forward.

She began working at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Service in Mattoon, Illinois as an Exercise Specialist in the Cardio-Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program. A year later, she began teaching at EIU while completing her PhD at Southern Illinois University. Jill taught undergraduate and graduate classes in exercise science while working with EIU's Adult Fitness Program and Sarah Bush's Phase III Cardiac Rehab Program.

She advised hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students in addition to chairing or advising a multitude of graduate students' theses and research projects. Her scholarly work included presentations at the local, state, regional, and national levels as well as a number of publications and grants.

After 19 years of teaching at EIU and serving as the Director of the Adult Fitness Program and Coordinator of the Phase III Cardiac Rehab Program, she became the Kinesiology and Sports Studies Department Chair for the next nine years. Some of her greatest accomplishments in this role included recognition of the Exercise Science Program by the National Strength and Conditioning Association; increased scholarly activity among faculty and students; five Study Abroad Programs and Faculty/Student Exchange Programs; and improved on- and off-campus relationships for student internships.

Service has also been extremely important to Jill. She has given countless hours of service to her department, college, university, and community serving on an array of committees and boards. She has also been honored and recognized for her hard work by receiving numerous accolades such as several Achievement and Contribution Awards in the Area of Teaching, the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor Award, and the Distinguished Department Chair Leadership Award.

Jill lives in Mattoon with her husband, Mike. They have two children, Jade and Jace.

# Joy Russell

## Lifetime Achievement

Dr. Joy L. Russell earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education, a master's degree in Elementary Education, and Administrative Certification from Eastern Illinois University. She received her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Indiana State University.



After graduating from EIU, Joy taught for eleven years in rural and urban settings (Loves Park, Arcola, and Casey, Illinois) pre-school through high school. She accepted a position as an administrator for the Eastern Illinois Area of Special Education (EIASE), Illinois' largest geographic special education regional delivery program which covers eight Illinois counties. Following her work at EIASE, Joy served as Director of Professional Development for Regional Office of Education #11.

In 1985, she began teaching in the EIU's Department of Special Education until she accepted the position of Chair of the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education, which she held until her retirement in 2014. During her 29 years at Eastern Illinois University, over a thousand students took her classes. Joy chaired thesis committees, co-authored a book on ADHD, and wrote numerous state and federal grants. She has given over one hundred local, national, and international presentations.

She has been involved in many professional activities including Program Committee Chair for the Illinois Administrators of Special Education, president for the Illinois Women Administrators, and vice president and president of a chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, an association for professional educators.

When certification for special educators was redesigned and designated the "Learning Behavior Specialist," Dr. Russell served as the State Chair of the committee to design and deliver professional development for practicing teachers, so that they could be updated and re-certified as meeting the new LBS requirements. Dr. Russell continues her membership on the Educational Leadership Cadre, a multi-state committee designed to provide input regarding statewide assessment in K-12.



Currently Dr. Russell is staying busy with traveling, writing, consulting with school districts in Illinois and Indiana, and volunteering in Mattoon, Illinois at Camp New Hope and at Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital.

# **2016 CEPS Alumni Award Recipients**

## **CEPS Rising Star**

Zachary Acton

Tracy Brogan

Tony Katzenmeier

Joseph King

Jaylyn Nassiri

## **Leadership & Service**

Daniel Alemu

Angela Armour

John Biernbaum

Jamie Gower

Kelly Hussey

## **Lifetime Achievement**

Mary Lynn Byers

Meryl Klages

Ken Klipp

Jim Littleford

Marilyn Morrow

**2015**  
**CEPS Alumni Award**  
**Recipients**

**CEPS Rising Star**

Candice Holbrook  
Katie Lewis  
Melissa McConaha  
Leah Reynolds  
Lisa Taylor

**Leadership & Service**

Chelsey Byers  
Carey Dahnke  
Bridgette Hensley  
Andy Kistler  
Julie Wollerman

**Lifetime Achievement**

Chuck Balling  
Barbara Hundley  
Richard James  
Carol Schramm  
William Thiel

**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

## 2013 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

## 2012

### 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

## 2011

### CEPS Rising Star

Drew Campbell

### Leadership & Service

Mark Koepsell  
Donna Martin  
William Smith  
Michael Sterba

### Lifetime Achievement

Larry Closson  
Morrie Reece

## 2010

### 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



This program is dedicated to LaDonna Talbert, 1964-2016.  
As a member of the CEPS Alumni Board, her enthusiasm and  
her dedication to her students were inspirational. She  
showed us what true courage looks like.

