

# **FACULTY RETIREES 2018-2019**

## **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**DR. BECKY COOK**

**26 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**DR. DAWN PAULSON**

**13 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**DR. MILDRED PEARSON**

**16 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**DR. ROGER REARDON**

**11 YEARS OF SERVICE**

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## **COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**DR. KATHY PHILLIPS**

**41 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**MS. MARY SANDERS**

**30 YEARS OF SERVICE**

College of Education /  
College of Health and Human Services

# **2019 Alumni Awards & Faculty Retirement Recognition**

## **Welcome**

### **Recognition of Retiring Faculty**

Dr. Doug Bower, Dean, College of Education  
Dr. Jeanne Lord, Dean, College of Health and  
Human Services

### **Introduction of Honorees and Presentation of Alumni Awards**

College of Education / College of Health and  
Human Services Alumni Board

## **Closing Remarks**

College of Education/ College of Health and  
Human Services Alumni Board

**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 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 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

# Daniel Amato

## Rising Star

Dan Amato began his academic career earning his bachelor's degree from DePaul University in Chicago before heading to Eastern Illinois University to complete a master's degree in College Student Affairs. While at EIU, Dan worked in Housing as an Assistant Residence Director for two years. After finishing up at EIU, Dan headed back north to start working at Northwestern University (NU) in the Residential Life program as a Residence Director.

Dan spent three years as a Residence Director at Northwestern where he discovered his passion for working with students within the student conduct process as well as working on violence prevention on campus.



Since 2013 when he arrived at NU, Dan has been involved in coalitions working to reduce the negative impacts of alcohol use on campus as well as working towards ending gender-based violence on campus. To this end, Dan was fortunate enough to start a men's engagement group called NU Men in which male-identified individuals come together and engage in dialogue around masculinity and what it means to be a man in the world, all in the hopes of developing healthier conceptions of self and working towards ending gender-based violence.

Upon leaving NU, Dan landed at National Louis University in downtown Chicago as an Associate Director for Student Development. In this role, he was responsible for the campus conduct process, Title IX investigations, and leadership initiatives. Dan was fortunate enough to be able to start a leadership development program titled Inclusive U in which students and staff could engage in bystander intervention, leadership training, and suicide prevention training leading towards a certificate.

A year later, in 2017, he was called back to Northwestern where he returned to Residence Life as the Assistant Director for Conduct and Community Standards. Dan now oversees the residential conduct process while also participating as a member of the Dean of Students Office. In this role, he has been able to develop a robust set of competencies on which staff are trained towards in order to improve the conduct process all of which is supported by a multi-level data collection process.

Outside of work Dan is enjoying his sixth year of marriage to his wife Justine and they have recently welcomed a beautiful baby girl to the family!

# Warren Sperry

## Lifetime Achievement

Warren Sperry earned both a bachelor's degree (1968) and a master's degree (1976) in education from Eastern Illinois University, where he also was a charter member of the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity.

Warren's career in education began as the Paris High School Band Director. His dynamic and inspiring leadership led many generations of Paris Marching Tigers to become nationally recognized performers. The Marching Tigers were selected to perform at prestigious events including the Aloha Bowl in Honolulu Hawaii, the Orange Bowl Parade, Indy 500 Parades, and the Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C. Listed among the top 100 bands in the nation, the Marching Tigers played for professional football half time shows, and were considered at the top of the elite marching band organizations in America.

After more than three decades he move into a new role as school administrator . For the last 14 years of his career, he has started new programs, pushed for innovative curriculum, and provided opportunities for the youth to serve their community. Mr. Sperry finished his professional education career as a school administrator, and has since continued to be a strong, active supporter of the Paris schools. Furthermore, Warren has continued to be an active, contributing member of the greater Paris community.

He has served as a board member for the Paris Community Hospital, YMCA, Edgar County Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the Paris Area Chamber of Commerce, holding membership in the Paris Shrine Club and the local emergency response group. All of these activities are truly reflective of his role as a servant leader. His efforts have been of exceptional benefit to the Paris community, and Eastern can be proud of its influence in Warren's devotion to the welfare of others.

He has been recognized locally, regionally, and nationally for his role in education, receiving the Allen D. Albert Award (Rotary Club's Citizens of the Year Award), the Outstanding Young Educator Award, and the Education is the Key Award from the Regional Office of Education. He was inducted into the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, and the National High School Band Directors Hall of Fame in 1989.

In the community, Warren received the Paris Area Chamber of Commerce Parisian of the Year Award, the FFA Forever Blue & Gold Award, the Vandalia Distinguished Alumni Award, and the Prairie Lodge No. 77 Community Builder Award.

Warren resides in Paris with his wife, Jody. Together they have three children, Martin (Tish), Adam (Kim), and Emily (Dr. Daren Kest), and five grandchildren.



# Anna Shlachter

## Leadership & Service

Anna graduated from EIU in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Sciences-Dietetics. She attended graduate school at Illinois State University and completed a dietetic internship at Edward Hines Jr VA Hospital. Anna is passionate about mentoring and leadership development. During her time at EIU, she took on many leadership roles in the Kappa Omicron Nu Honor Society, the student dietetic association, and as president during her senior year in Alpha Phi Omega (APO).

As a graduate student and early professional, she turned her energies toward serving the nutrition and dietetics community, and received the Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year award. Later she would go on to serve in leadership roles at all levels. She was awarded the 2012 Illinois Outstanding Dietitian of the Year and the designation of Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (FAND).

Anna has made significant and sustained contributions to the field of nutrition and dietetics, establishing her as a role model in the field. She has been a speaker and writer contributing to numerous



publications and educational presentations. Anna also has a passion for policy and advocacy and also serves as a preceptor for dietetic interns. She has worked in areas of public health/WIC, nutrition research and communications, and education. Currently she serves as the Director of HOD Governance at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

In her spare time, she enjoys cooking and foodie experiences with her husband Josh (also an EIU graduate.) She also enjoys yoga and is an animal lover.



# Jill Rogers

## Leadership & Service

Jill (Bennett) Rogers graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in English with teacher certification and a business education minor. In 1995 she earned a master's degree in English while working in EIU's Writing Center.

After earning her master's degree, she began teaching 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade English and computer education in the Kansas IL school district. While at Kansas, she began pursuing her specialist degree at EIU in education administration, winning the Warner Education Administration award twice. After winning two competitive Goals 2000 grants totaling \$500,000, Jill was named K-12 principal of Kansas schools in 1998.

In 2001, Jill graduated from EIU with her specialist's degree and was hired by the Martinsville CUSD #C-3 as superintendent, a position she still holds 18 years later. She has seen her elementary, and junior and senior high schools named Illinois Honor Roll schools. In addition, the district has been awarded Financial Recognition status 13 out of the last 14 years.

While at Martinsville, Jill has acquired millions of dollars in grant funds for the district. In 2008 when Martinsville Jr.-Sr. High School was destroyed by storms and a record-breaking flood, she secured a \$1.4 million grant to construct a temporary campus and worked with FEMA and ISBE to bring in over \$10 million to rebuild the school. Martinsville Jr.-Sr. High School opened in 2011 and achieved silver LEED certification, a mark of the energy efficiency and cost-effective sustainability of the new building. The Martinsville School Board named the new library, "Jill Rogers Media Center" in her honor.

Jill and her husband Keeley reside on his family farm and are parents to Dirk Bennett, another EIU alumnus and assistant coach for the EIU men's soccer team. They enjoy mountain hiking and spending time with their big dogs, a Great Dane and a Great Pyrenees.



# Ashley Wishard

## Rising Star

Ashley Wishard is a special education teacher in Tuscola Illinois where she also co-teachers 5th grade math, is a resource teacher for other learners with disabilities for math, reading and writing, and plans and delivers science and social studies instruction to her students.

As a single parent, Ashley returned to school full time along with graduate assistantship responsibilities to earn a masters degree in Special Education at EIU with licensure as a Learning Behavior Specialist 1. She is currently working on receiving her principalship. One day, Ashley would like to become a special education director or work with creating curriculum for students with special needs.

She is innovative in her efforts to assist her students beyond the classroom. Seeing a need to provide her



students with an opportunity within the school environment to practice functional skills in a real-life setting, she planned and implemented a Classroom Coffee Cart that provides coffee to all the teachers of the school every Friday. This not only gives her students practice of interacting with teachers but the teachers become better acquainted with the students who receive special education in the school.

She received "Special Education Recognition Awards" in honor of her scholarship, leadership, and service 2014 and 2015, and received the "Special Education Outstanding Graduate Student Award" in 2015.

Ashley serves as a Special Olympics coach for the Tuscola District and is active in the Kiwanis Builders Club as a director of many outreach programs including One Stop Christmas. She also coaches a girls softball team in the Tuscola City League and is a basketball coach for the YMCA Itty Bitty Team.