



PEI

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF IOWA

Professional Educators of Iowa Newsletter

Special Recognition and Events

November, 2011

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PEI Member Jodi Larson Named 2011 Middle School PE Teacher of the Year

Ankeny's Northview Middle School physical education teacher Jodi Larson has been named the 2011 Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the Iowa Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (IAHPERD). She was selected from PE teachers across Iowa based on criteria such as planning innovative learning experiences to meet the needs of all students, serving as a positive role model epitomizing personal health and fitness, and providing service to her profession through leadership, presentations, and/or writing.

As the Iowa Middle School PE Teacher of the Year, Larson now moves on to District consideration, in which a winner will be selected and submitted to the National PE Teacher of the Year competition. "I'm a very dedicated person by nature. I'm a farm kid who was raised with the idea that you work hard and you play hard. For me, it's just the recognition of hard work, but the hard work of our whole team. I do put my whole heart and soul into my work, and I always try to do what's right for kids. I think hard work pays off," said Mrs. Larson. "I'll say it a thousand times, I couldn't have gotten here without the PE team that I work with. Everything that we've done, we've done together."

The team has overseen a number of changes to the traditional PE model used in the district. Instead of simply playing games during PE, the team has added teaching concepts designed to build health and physical education skills that will serve students for a lifetime. Students are also offered activity choices to help them find interesting leisure pursuits that get them more engaged in their own health. "Our Professional Learning Community (PLC) has really worked well together, and we make adjustments each year," notes Larson. "We discuss what worked and what didn't work. So, I think our transition from the traditional PE model to where we are today is something of which I'm very proud."

Larson sees the role of the PE teacher in 2011 as one that prepares students with lifelong skills, noting that even though many students are active in middle and high school athletics, few continue that level of activity after high school. "It's easy to say, 'Our kids are active in school,' but this is usually through organized activities. There comes a time in kids' lives where there isn't a coach to train them, or there isn't a physical education teacher to train them, and the question becomes, 'Do they have the skills they need to be successful?'" says Larson. "It's not just about being active today, but about teaching skills that help students stay active in their 20's, 30's and beyond. So a big piece of the puzzle for me is helping kids find things to do that they really enjoy. Most of us are not going to go out and repeatedly do something we don't enjoy"

"We are extremely fortunate and proud to have teachers like Jodi Larson on our team at Ankeny Schools," states Dr. Matthew Wendt, Superintendent of Schools. "Jodi has passion for her work, a vision for health and wellness, and truly understands our mission to prepare every learner for a lifetime of personal success."

"Jodi Larson is a teacher who is energetic, visionary, positive, collaborative, and results-focused," said Northview Middle School principal Jill Urich. "Her leadership has fostered growth among her peers, which has ultimately impacted the learning of all students at Northview."

Jodi is a long time member of PEI and we are all very excited for her well deserved honor.

Memphis

Exclusive E-Ticket Presale

April 24-29, 2012

Winner of Four 2010 Tony Awards including Best Musical, The Associated Press calls *Memphis* "The very essence of what a Broadway musical should be."

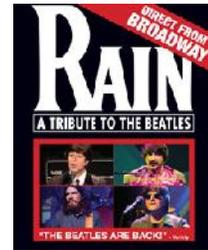


Rain - A Tribute to the Beatles

May 15-16, 2012

RAIN, the internationally-acclaimed Beatles concert returns by popular demand RAIN performs the full range of The Beatles' discography live onstage, including the most complex and challenging songs that The Beatles themselves recorded in the studio but never performed for an audience.

Please call the office at 515-221-2330 for more information on the PEI E-Ticket program.



Happy Thanksgiving!