



Exceptional, Exemplary, Role-Models

Every year PEI endeavors to honor those educators and assistants who go above and beyond to the point of exceptionalism as they work with our students. This year we are honoring three who were nominated by their peers and then chosen by the scholarship selection committee.

The Professional Educators of the Year!

PEI Scholarship Committee



Pam Nation (L), Chris Sosnowski (C), and Chris Dilulio (R)

A special *thank you* to our scholarship committee this year for the time they put into the project. With over 100 applications for the various awards, these three educators meticulously read through each application seeking out those they believe will make a difference in education!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE GREAT EDUCATORS!

Known as a dedicated math teacher who believes that building relationships with students is a key to being a successful teacher, **Jeff Corbett** of Lynnville-Sully is PEI's **Teacher of the Year**.

Friend and colleague Kevin Johnson said, "If he's not teaching or coaching you will find him attending the high school play, vocal concerts or various other activities at the school."

Norene Paulson echoed those comments and added that Jeff is known for making learning fun from the bouncing of balls to the rolling of dice or the silly dividing fractions songs! She notes how interesting Jeff makes learning for his students.

Principal Teri Bowlin also mentioned the degree to which Mr. Corbett goes above and beyond. "It is a rare occurrence to walk by his classroom before first period and see him at his desk. Instead, he is typically at the white board surrounded by multiple students seeking his guidance and extra practice. Mr. Corbett's commitment to helping his students experience academic success is clearly evident."

Superintendent Shane Ehresman commented, "Jeff is an outstanding teacher; very deserving of this award; one of the best." He goes on to explain that recently released reports show Lynnville-Sully's middle school math scores to be some of the best in the state and that Corbett has played a large role in helping the school to achieve that status.

Jeff has taught middle school math at Lynnville-Sully since 1996 as well as coaching track, football, and girls' basketball. He also participates in the Lions Club, serves as an elder within his church, and plays in a local band.

Along with the honor, Jeff was given a \$500 cash award.



Jeff Corbett (L), Jim Hawkins



Jodie Nation (L), Suzanne Minor

Widely thought of as a model associate with the special education department at Cardinal High School, **Suzanne Minor** has been selected to receive one of two **Teacher Associate of the Year** awards from PEI.

Suzanne is known for the special rapport she develops with the students. She's been described as "a steady force in the special education room," and "kind, caring and an extremely valuable asset to Cardinal Schools."

Jeremy Hissem, HS principal at Cardinal says that Suzanne is a consummate professional. "She does it the right way. Suzanne is a fantastic example of a paraprofessional in the level of care she gives to her students."

Superintendent Joel Pedersen adds, "Cardinal is fortunate to have her. While it's true that she's a great para-educator, she is an even better person!"

Suzanne has been working with students with disabilities in the district for eight years and is currently a one-to-one aide.

Along with the award, Suzanne was given an honorarium and a one year Supporting Membership with PEI.

Tammy Smith has been awarded the **Teacher Associate of the Year** award from PEI. Tammy is an associate at East Sac County Elementary in Wall Lake. Smith has been an early childhood special education associate at East Sac for three years.

Those who work closest with her say the work she does positively impacts many more children than just those assigned to her. Kindergarten teacher Lisa Kies says, "Mrs. Smith is viewed by the students in the class as a complete equal to the classroom teacher. They adore her. Her love for all children shines through in all situations at school."

Mike Fischer, Principal, praises Tammy and her work and is well aware of her exemplary record. Despite being pulled between two buildings in the district, Mr. Fischer says, "Tammy is always willing to take on extra duties and always is an advocate for students and staff."



Tammy was given an honorarium along with her award and a one year Supporting Membership with PEI.

Lisa Kies (L), Tammy Smith, Jodie Nation

SAVE THE DATE!
FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2015
PEI ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The Future of Education
DES MOINES, IA

REMINDER!!!!

Send us your summer email addresses AND address/information changes.

info@peiowa.org