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Triopia's Dean named Superintendent of Distinction

SPRINGFIELD—Adam Dean, superintendent of Triopia CUSD #27, has been named the 2022 Superintendent of Distinction by his colleagues in the Two Rivers Region of the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA).

Dean was honored at an awards luncheon May 4 in Springfield. State Superintendent Dr. Carmen Ayala was the featured speaker, where 21 IASA regional Superintendents of Distinction were recognized.

“A good leader is a person who takes a little more than his share of the blame and a little less than his share of the credit,” said Dean, who has been an educator for 18 years and superintendent of Triopia CUSD #27 for three years. “I am very humbled and appreciative to receive this award. It’s really a credit to the tremendous faculty and staff at Triopia who work hard every day to provide the best for our students. I’m also lucky to work with such an incredible Board of Education and community who realize the importance of education.”

Those nominating Dean noted a number of successes during his tenure including:

- Stayed fully in-person during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Expanded CTE Programming for students, including adding a business program and building a greenhouse.
- Improved professional learning opportunities for staff through speakers and other resources.
- Received a 3.9/4.0 Recognition Status on last district audit.
- Serves as President of the Illini Administrators' Institute, President of IASA Two Rivers Region and serves on the Four Rivers Special Education Operating Board.
- Named to the "Twenty Under Forty" in Jacksonville Journal-Courier in 2020.
- Updated curriculum throughout district and expanded technology.

The Two Rivers Region is comprised of Adams, Schuyler, Brown, Cass, Pike, Scott, Morgan, Calhoun and Greene counties. Superintendents of Distinction were selected by peers in their region based on their commitment, dedication and leadership.

“Superintendents across Illinois navigated immense challenges this school year, so it really is an honor to stand out and be recognized by your peers for outstanding leadership and elevating student success,” said IASA Executive Director Dr. Brent Clark. “Each of these superintendents are great examples of how strong leadership can improve the educational environment for students, strengthen communities and continuously push districts forward.”

The eighth annual luncheon was again sponsored by Horace Mann, one of the nation’s largest insurers focusing on the needs of educators.

“Superintendents continued to face unprecedented challenges this school year as students and teachers returned to the classroom,” said Marita Zuraitis, Horace Mann President and CEO. “Strong leadership has never been more critical. We are proud to recognize these Superintendents of Distinction for navigating their districts through the ongoing pursuit of providing a quality education for their students.”