

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 1, 2018

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## **School Superintendents Honored for Expertise and Leadership**

SPRINGFIELD — Twenty-one superintendents across Illinois named 2018 Regional Superintendents of Distinction were honored Tuesday, May 1 during a luncheon in Springfield. It was the fourth annual awards luncheon sponsored by Horace Mann Companies, Illinois Association of School Administrators, Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Principals Association.

Superintendents of Distinction are selected by their peers in each of the 21 different IASA regions based on leadership, communication, professionalism and community involvement.

“These unique individuals in the field of Illinois public education are providing exceptional leadership and are industrious in developing creative contributions that elevate the success of students in their districts and support solutions to growing demands,” said IASA Executive Director Dr. Brent Clark.

The featured speaker at this year’s event was State Superintendent Dr. Tony Smith. Also present was Dr. David Schuler, winner of both the 2018 Illinois and National Superintendent of the Year awards. Schuler is currently superintendent of Township High School District 214 in Arlington Heights. He is the first Illinois superintendent to receive the national honor.

“Our superintendents and principals are shepherding schools through a transformational time in education,” State Superintendent of Education Tony Smith, Ph. D. said. “The leaders we honored today are among those going above and beyond to maximize opportunities and outcomes for each and every student. These leaders are not just building up their communities but also the social and economic future of our state.”

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

“Superintendents work tirelessly to keep our schools safe while providing resources and support to our educators teaching our future leaders,” said Marita Zuraitis, Horace Mann President and Chief Executive Officer. “As a company founded by educators for educators, I applaud the IASA ‘Superintendents of Distinction’ for continually looking for ways to create the best learning environment for educators and their students.”

The Illinois Association of School Administrators is the state's premier advocacy organization for public school superintendents, with more than 1,600 members and a history of promoting excellence in education dating back to 1946.

**Here is the full list of 21 Superintendents of Distinction and their region:**

Abe Lincoln – Adam N. Ehrman, New Berlin CUSD 16

Blackhawk – Scott D. Kuffel, Geneseo CUSD 228

CIV – Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat, Ed.D., Peoria District 150

Cook North – Daniel Cates, Township HS District 211

Cook South – Dr. Sheila Harrison-Williams, Hazel Crest District 152.5

Cook West – Dr. Glenn Schlichting, La Grange SD 105

Corn Belt – Gary Tipsord, LeRoy CUSD 2

Du Page – Victoria L. Tabbert, Queen Bee District 16

Egyptian – Timothy P. O'Leary, Pinckneyville District 50

Illini – Dr. Jean M. Neal, Georgetown-Ridge Farm CUD 4

Kaskaskia – Brad Skertich, Southwestern CUSD 9

Kishwaukee – Rick A. Schmitt, Sandwich CUSD 430

Lake – Dr. Michael Lubelfeld, Deerfield District 109

Northwest – Dr. PJ Caposey, Meridian CUSD 223

Shawnee – Chris Grode, Murphysboro CUSD 186

Southwestern – Jonathan Tallman, Red Bud CUSD 132

Starved Rock – Mark R. Cross, Peru ESD 124

Three Rivers – Dr. Patrick M. Halloran, Morris CHSD 101

Two Rivers – Dr. Kevin Blankenship, Scott-Morgan District 2

Wabash Valley – Julie L. Kraemer, Hutsonville CUSD 1

Western – Jodi L. Scott, ROE 33