

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District 99's McDonald honored as 'Superintendent of Distinction'

Community High School District 99 Superintendent Mark McDonald was honored as a regional "Superintendent of Distinction" at an awards luncheon Tuesday (April 21) at the governor's Executive Mansion in Springfield. McDonald was selected by his peers in the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) DuPage Region.

"I was honored to be recommended by my superintendent colleagues in DuPage County. It is an incredible group of leaders and educators. I am humbled with this recognition," said McDonald, who has been an educator for 36 years, the past seven as superintendent of Community High School District 99, which includes two high schools and students from Bolingbrook, Dairen, Downers Grove, Lisle, Oak Brook, Westmont and Woodridge.

McDonald was one of 20 school superintendents from around the state to be recognized as a "Superintendent of Distinction." Governor Bruce Rauner and IASA Executive Director Brent Clark were among those taking part in the awards ceremony.

"Public education is facing some of its most difficult times, and that is when leadership is most important. These 'Superintendents of Distinction' were selected by their peers in their regions because of the dedication, commitment and leadership that they have demonstrated, and we are pleased to recognize them for what they do to fulfill the promise of public education for children all over the state," Clark said.

McDonald graduated from the University of Illinois, attained his Master's Degree from Northern Illinois University and his Doctor of Education Degree from the University of Illinois. He served as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal and deputy superintendent in various districts before being named superintendent of District 99 in 2008.

McDonald has helped District 99's high schools gain recognition from U.S. News and World Report as being among the top high schools in the nation with success in music, speech and forensics, visual arts, theater, athletic and vocational competitions. The enrollment in Advanced Placement classes has more than doubled in the past decade, and the district has successfully implemented integrated curriculum, embedded staff development, instructional technology and collaborative decision-making.

The awards and luncheon were sponsored by Horace Mann, one of the nation's largest insurers focusing on educators' needs, and Herff Jones, one of the largest suppliers of class rings, yearbooks and graduation caps, gowns and announcements.

"Superintendents face many challenges. From balancing budgets to keeping schools and students safe, they work to put the needs of students first and consistently work to find, nurture and support quality teachers," said Marita Zuraitis, Horace Mann President and Chief Executive Officer. "Their efforts make their schools outstanding

learning environments, and that excellence is what the IASA is celebrating. Horace Mann is proud to recognize and applaud the IASA 'Superintendents of Distinction.' ”

“Herff Jones celebrates the educational leaders who are being recognized today for promoting and encouraging excellence in their schools,” said Sales Representative Elizabeth Elsner. “Thank you for educating our children.”

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