

# TEACHER RECOGNITION

*May 13, 2014*



## **2014 TEACHERS OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS BANQUET**

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| 5:00 p.m. | Registration   |
| 5:25 p.m. | Welcome<br>Paul Drange, Director of Regional Programs  |
| 5:30 p.m. | Dinner   |
| 6:00 p.m. | Keynote Speaker<br>Bruce Christopher, Nationally Recognized Speaker                                  |
| 6:45 p.m. | Awards<br>Paul Drange, Director of Regional Programs and Rynell Schock, Leader of Education Services |
| 7:30 p.m. | Closing Remarks<br>Rynell Schock, Leader of Education Services                                       |



## WHO IS NJPA?

*I have worked in a number of schools with professional learning communities, but the most impactful work I have experienced happened when our school was working with and guided by NJPA."*

—Browerville High School Teacher

At its core, National Joint Powers Alliance® (NJPA) is a member-driven service cooperative with a membership now exceeding 50,000. NJPA offers a multitude of programs, contracted products, equipment and service opportunities to education, government and other non-profit entities. Locally in Minnesota, NJPA offers regional programs for counties, cities and schools that comprise an area known as "Region 5." We successfully aid in the planning, development and provision of services in a vast array of fields, including student academic programs, technology services, curriculum solutions, staffing, health & safety, risk management and more. At NJPA, our mission is to build valued relationships, deliver innovative solutions with integrity and exceed the expectations of our members.

## WHAT IS NJPA EDUCATION SOLUTIONS?

Education Solutions delivers high quality services and professional development for regional schools. The dedicated staff work towards developing characteristics of effective schools, including supporting schools with developing collaborative professional cultures, effective data, assessment and curriculum practices, highly effective instruction, and family engagement/community partnerships. In addition, Education Solutions seeks to equip systems with strong vision, leadership, and organization. NJPA is committed to building the capacity of leaders and learners through the implementation of professional learning to increase principal and teacher effectiveness, grounded in research-based practices of the profession and applied to daily teaching for results in student learning.



# Teachers of Excellence Awards Banquet

“I want to thank NJPA for this honor. It is kind of awkward for me as I like being behind the scene instead of in the spotlight. I have been truly blessed with fine children to work with these past 30+ years and wonderful colleagues.”

“Thank you so much... I feel honored to be included in this.”

NJPA Education Solutions recognizes the *profound impact* of teachers and want to *celebrate* this work. We are excited to launch the Teachers of Excellence Awards Program for the first time this year. Nomination applications were sent to all schools in the *Region 5* area. Nominators were asked to identify a teacher or teacher team who has shown *leadership* and *innovation* in an area of expertise which has led to student learning. Nominees are *honored* and celebrated at tonight's banquet.

In addition, nominees were invited to apply for NJPA's *Academy for Teachers of Excellence*. Members of the Academy become a part of Education Solution's training staff as contributing consultants. They lend their expertise to their peers across the region as presenters for professional development sessions.





# 2014 WINNERS



**ROXANNE LUNDEEN, CATHY RIEWER**

**Bertha-Hewitt Elementary School** | Nominated By: Brian Koslofsky

Roxanne and Cathy are very influential in the increase in achievement of our elementary students at Bertha-Hewitt Elementary. From explicit instruction and modeling Early Interventions in Reading to the work of guided math instruction, Cathy and Roxanne do an excellent job for Bertha-Hewitt Schools. They use an outstanding TEAM approach when providing intervention strategies for students and modeling instructional best practices for faculty.



**PATRINE TURNBLOOM**

**Cuyuna Range Elementary** | Nominated By: Kurt Becker

Mrs. Turnbloom is a model teacher when it comes to helping content come alive for students. Her students don't just learn about science, they experience it. She plans engaging lessons that integrate several content areas into one and incorporate problem-solving and critical thinking. Her integration of technology has benefited her students to a high degree. Students are learning how to access information as well as demonstrate their learning through the use of technology.



**ANGIE IRELAND, JEREMY STADUM, HOLLY LATHE, JILL SEILER, KRISTIN HAUGO-JONES**

**Lindbergh Elementary School** | Nominated By: Jill Griffith-McRaith

These teachers are specialists providing instruction in music, art, physical education and media to K-5 students. As a team they meet in a PLC to create lessons to support the learning in the classroom. They have worked extremely hard to integrate literacy, math and other content areas into their lessons while continuing to meet the state standards in their respective areas. The team has also developed activities to increase physical movement throughout the school day.

**SHAWN ALHOLM****Lincoln Elementary School** | Nominated By: Larry Edgerton

Shawn Alholm is a teacher-leader. This year he has expanded our technology integration by having live morning announcements. He continues to expand and enhance this morning production. He is also a leader in technology outside of the classroom. He leads teacher discussions each week focused on the integration of technology to enhance lessons. Shawn is creating a culture for using technology in the classrooms.

**MIKE HUCK, ERIC LEBLANC, ANDY WARD****Little Falls Community High School** | Nominated By: Tim Bjorge

These three teachers are the advisors for the Little Falls Robotics Club and have created a fervor of excitement for robotics in their high school. They have taken the FIRST ROBOTICS program from its infancy two years ago to a point where 112 students have registered for an Introduction to Robotics class for the 2014-2015 school year. The three of them are directly responsible for increased interest in this STEM program.

**JENNIFER MCLACHLAN, LAURIE SCHOECK, ADAM SMIEJA, CHAD SCHOECK, BUDDY GAU****Little Falls Community Middle School** | Nominated By: Nathan Swenson

The Little Falls Community Middle School math department has done exceptional work in the area of curriculum development and alignment, including the development of measurable essential outcomes and common assessments. In addition, they have developed an effective process of providing intervention for struggling learners through a partnership with the alternative learning teacher.



# 2014 WINNERS



**KENORA GOODRICH, SARAH PORISCH, MARY DENNIS, KELSI OLSON, KEVIN HOSKINS, SARAH FILIPPI**  
**Little Falls Community Middle School** | Nominated By: Nathan Swenson

This team has led the way in modeling a quality PLC through thoughtful, professional conversation. Their work has included aligning curriculum to standards, creating common assessments, and reviewing student data to adjust their instruction. Their students now receive a more consistently delivered curriculum with measurable essential outcomes.



**TRACY TSCHIDA, TRAVIS KRAHN, NIKKI STARK, BRENDA HELMRICHS**  
**Pequot Lakes High School** | Nominated By: Chip Rankin

These teachers have diligently worked to incorporate technology into their instruction. They have extensive websites and digital resources that enhance the student learning experience. Collectively they have incorporated clickers (math), chromebooks, and traditional computers along with smartboards. Students are highly engaged in their classrooms.



**LAURIE PASKEWITZ**  
**Staples Elementary School** | Nominated By: Kathy Johnson

Laurie has headed up a team to fine tune the RTI process in her school. She has facilitated the work to make the process run more efficiently, use data to drive interventions, and track paperwork to make informed decisions. As a result, many students who have gone through the RTI referral process have made good progress.

**AARON GAPINSKI****Swanville Elementary School** | Nominated By: Gene Harthan

Aaron is always looking for innovative ideas for his classroom. He is also very caring and seeks ways to reach each student daily by making learning fun and exciting. He is open and willing to learn new ideas and technologies and then share his learning with other staff. He is a professional who genuinely loves his job and demonstrates this daily.

**MARGARET PETERSON****Swanville Elementary School** | Nominated By: Sheryl Johnson

Margaret is very adaptable; she has had to make some significant changes in her classroom with curriculum and has done so successfully. Margaret keeps a very close eye on her students and knows when they are struggling. She is quick to work with them and offer extra help. She works closely with administration to ensure that all students are successful.

**JESSICA HOVLAND****Upsala High School** | Nominated By: Vern Capelle

Ms. Hovland has a passion and dedication to ensure that each of her math students achieves to the best of their abilities. She consistently reflects on the impact of her instruction and continuously strives to implement instructional strategies that will have a positive impact on student achievement. She creates a learning environment in which the students feel that they can take risks and find success through inquiry.

## EDUCATION SOLUTIONS

### **Making a Difference with Professional Development that is Different**

NJPA Education Solutions exists to...**Build valued relationships** with professionals as leaders and learners: in schools, in partnership with service and governmental organizations, and in other educational entities. **Deliver solutions** for the complex demands in education - Solutions that are focused on the value for the capacity developed when individuals work together with flexibility, interdependence, efficacy, craftsmanship, and consciousness. **Exceed the expectations of our members** to bring results to learning and leadership by serving with an attitude of humility for the honor that has been given to us to teach and learn with learners of all ages.

# meet **OUR** STAFF



**Carol Jackson**

Administrative Specialist  
carol.jackson@NJPAcoop.org  
218-894-5481



**Gwynne Gildow**

Education Consultant  
218-894-5486



**Julie Mertens**

21st Century Learning Specialist  
julie.mertens@NJPAcoop.org  
218-895-4117



**Julie Oakland-Soukup**

Education Consultant  
julie.soukup@NJPAcoop.org  
218-894-5486



**Kassidy Rice**

Education Consultant  
kassidy.rice@NJPAcoop.org  
218-894-5486



**Lisa Novak**

Education Consultant  
lisa.novak@NJPAcoop.org  
218-894-5486



**Lori Duhn**

Administrative Specialist  
lori.duhn@NJPAcoop.org  
218-894-5486



**Marilyn McKeehen**

Education Consultant  
marilyn.mckeehen@gmail.com  
218-894-5486



**Meg Litts**

Assistant Leader of Education Services  
meg.litts@NJPAcoop.org  
218-895-4126



**Rynell Schock**

Leader of Education Services  
rynell.schock@NJPAcoop.org  
218-894-5492

**NJPAcoop.org • 888-894-1930**



202 12th Street NE • P.O. Box 219 • Staples, MN 56479 • 888-894-1930