

Navigating Currents of Change

2009 MCEA Awards

October 28 - 30, 2009

RiverCentre

St. Paul,
Minnesota

Photo courtesy of
Brenda Klimstra,
Sartell, MN

As your president and on behalf of the MCEA Board of Directors, I want to welcome you to the 2009 MCEA Awards Banquet. The Board honors and commends all of the award winners who through their achievements represent outstanding contributions to our profession and their communities. Their good works through quality programs and services are reflected in communities all across the state as they advocate for lifelong learning and engage community members to create better communities. With this direction, they do make a difference. Tonight we celebrate their accomplishments.

Congratulations to the 2009 MCEA Award Winners!!!

Mary Hughes

2009 MCEA President



MCEA MISSION STATEMENT:

MCEA provides the leadership, resources and support services needed to develop and sustain leading-edge Community Education programs and services across Minnesota.

2009 MCEA Award Winner

COMMUNITY EDUCATOR AWARD

District population greater than 15,000



Tamra Sieve, Bloomington

In 2006 Tamra assumed the role of Director of Adult Learning at S.H.A.P.E. Since then she has directed the growth of the ESL, Diploma, GED, Volunteer, and Adults with Disabilities programs while still functioning as principal of the Under 21 Diploma program. Currently the president of MAAP (Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs)

Tamra holds a BA in Secondary Education and History, an MA in Education and Administrative License. She lives in Eagan with her family.

COMMUNITY EDUCATOR AWARD

District population less than 15,000



Wendy Walz, Litchfield

Wendy has been Litchfield School District's Early Childhood Programs Coordinator for the past twenty years. Her passion for our district's youngest citizens and their families has been at the forefront of her involvement with this position. She has served on the MCEA Board of Directors, was active

with the Legislative Committee for many years and has been the early childhood "go to person" for small districts in the state of Minnesota. She has a true understanding of the Community Education philosophy and is an energetic proponent for early childhood programs and their constituents.

2009 MCEA Award Winner

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Paulette Rislund, Shakopee



Paulette Rislund has been the Volunteer & Community Resource Coordinator for Shakopee Public Schools since 1993. Under Paulette's leadership, Shakopee schools have developed a comprehensive volunteer program which has grown in size and depth. She works with community partners to maintain the important connection between our schools and community. Paulette's involvement in several community service organizations is testament to her spirit of volunteerism.

YOUTH CONTRIBUTION AWARDS

Josh Villa, Robbinsdale



Josh Villa exemplifies the core values of Community Education every day. For the past four years Josh has demonstrated this by coordinating service projects, recruiting student volunteers, assisting with enrichment classes, chairing advisory councils and acting as a liaison to the School Board. The tremendous impact Josh has had by positively engaging young people in the betterment of the Robbinsdale Area Schools community is truly amazing.

Christopher Gelke, Rosemount - Apple Valley - Eagan

As a seventh grader, Chris joined District 196 Community Education Youth Connection Council (YCC) and has served as chairperson, actively demonstrating leadership and promoting team-building within the group. He also represents this group on the Community Education Advisory Council providing YCC updates and vital information regarding the student perspective. He has spearheaded a number of YCC events to benefit Parkinson's Disease Foundation, Lymphoma Research Foundation and Spare Key, to name a few. For the past five years, Chris has devoted more than 100 hours per school year to YCC events and activities. Chris is now a senior at Eagan High School and the Business Department Chair and Student Government Advisor states in his nomination recommendation letter, "What sets Chris apart from his peers, however, is that he gets involved in what he believes in and does not just sit on the sidelines observing. He is definitely a "doer"!

2009 MCEA Award Winner

MULTICULTURAL LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT AWARD



Howard Root, Minneapolis

Howard Root has played a vital role in MPS Community Education for 35 Years. He served in the Phillips community, NE neighborhood, and the Northside providing programs for youth and adults. He was a member of the MCEA Board of Directors in 1994 & 1995. He hosted a cable TV show featuring CE programs & guests from

1988-1991. Howard recently retired and is starting a new series of adventures.

OUTSTANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER



Don McNeil, Shakopee

"I have made it a retirement goal to be involved as a community organizer with various events and organizations. I have been on the Shakopee Community Education Advisory Council for 5 years representing senior citizens and also serve on the budget/finance/legislative committee. My wife, Marge, and I have been Shakopee residents for 18 years."

Emerging Leader Recognition

Kari Gorr



In 2003 Kari began as a staff person in the school age care program and after eighteen months she was promoted to Program Supervisor. In 2007 she became the Coordinator for all the Ventures Child Care programs. Kari has a strong capacity for building collaboration with other school district programs and can always be counted on to lead or serve on committees. She is a member of the MCEA Emerging Leaders group, serves on the Professional Development Committee and in 2009 helped plan the Leadership Days in St. Cloud. In 2008

Kari was awarded the National Community Education Association (NCEA) Applied Program Professional Leadership Endorsement (APPLE).

2009 MCEA Award Winner

OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION AWARDS



Northfield Healthy Community Initiative

For almost 15 years, the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) has served as the primary initiator of collaboration and youth-focused efforts in the Northfield area. With a Board of Directors comprised of both adults, HCI has been at the forefront of leadership in the community in such areas as chemical health coordination, out-of-school time programs and support for children and youth, and the promotion of Search Institute's 40 developmental assets. Thanks to the efforts of HCI,

Northfield is a pilot community for Search Institute's new Sparks Initiative.

Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth of New Ulm

Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth and the New Ulm Area Youth Council are involved in several community education initiatives including the Red Bookcase program which places new or slightly used books in the hands of children and families. the New Ulm Park & Rec Puppet Wagon, Prairie Fire Children's Theatre, the Green Team Recycling program, Prom and Graduation safe and sober programs with the Underage Substance Abuse



Coalition, sponsoring community speakers like Tommy Watson and 'Tiger' McLuen and through the education efforts of the New Ulm and Sleepy Eye Area S.P.O.T.S (Students Performing On Tough Situations) Troupes. During the course of the school year the SPOTS Troupes will create & perform scenes for over 2000 students and adults. These scenes focus on issues important to today's youth and include scenes on bullying, alcohol & drug abuse, depression, eating disorders, sexually transmitted diseases, making good choices, dealing with stress and many more.

The New Ulm Area Youth Council is also involved in sponsoring Youth and Band Blasts, helping with the United Way Day of Caring and serving on several city boards and commissions. They also are responsible for creating the new 'Beat Shack' Teen Center which has seen over 1400 visits since it began on June 1st.

The New Ulm Area Youth Council & Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth are constantly striving to 'Empower the Potential and Promise of Youth' and will continue to look for ways to make a difference in the lives of youth and the communities of Brown County.

Project Award Winner

FOLEY YOUTH EXPO

Foley

This collaborative free event is an opportunity for organizations, athletic booster clubs, social service agencies and businesses in the Foley area to showcase programs and opportunities for families. The event features



hands-on activities, demonstrations, door prizes, a low cost supper and the opportunity to join organizations.



RESOLUTION FAIR

Litchfield

The goal of the 2009 "Resolution Fair" was to provide opportunities for adult learners to improve their lives through New Year's resolutions and build an awareness of what our community offers for the various changes people want to make in their lifestyles after the holidays and as a new year begins. The top New Year's resolutions were researched on the internet and from this activity, our Community Education department came up with the slogan, "Better Adults...Make Better Kids...Make Better Communities!"



Project Award Winner

SCHOOLS EMPTY BOWLS

Moundsview

Mounds View Public School students and staff hosted the annual Empty Bowls Community Dinner. More than 300 attendees enjoyed a soup and bread dinner and had the opportunity to purchase student-made ceramic bowls. Student and staff participation in this service learning project included: researching the issue of hunger, educating classmates, making soup and bread to be served at event, creating and selling bowls to raise funds. Proceeds totaled nearly \$3,200.



SCIENCE NIGHT LIVE

Prior Lake-Savage

Science Night Live (SNL) is a Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools Community Education Services program designed for students in grades 3-12 and their parents to hear exciting ideas and developments in many scientific fields presented by experts throughout the school year. The intent of SNL is to show students that science is fun, exciting and all around them. Volunteer presenters from the community have made the program the success it is today.



Project Award Winner

BROOKLYN CENTER COMMUNITY CENTER

Brooklyn Center

Nestled right in the community, Community Corner provides a safe and convenient place for families to access resource and referral and find family support. African Food Shelf, housing information, tenant training, ECFE, School Readiness, ABE classes, and access to county services are just a few of the many offerings in place to promote family stability.



LINDA HANKA

HAIR RAISING ART SHOW

New Ulm

Two years ago, members of our Community Education painting classes and their instructor began the "Hair Raising Art Show" named because the show is held at a hair salon of which two members of the class work. The show kicks off with a wine and hors d'oeuvre party and then is open to the public for a month. It gives our participants in the art classes a chance to display their work, which many may never have had the opportunity.



Project Award Winner

KIWI - KIDS INTERNATIONAL WELLNESS INITIATIVE

*South Washington
County*

To address childhood obesity vs. global starvation, Community Education developed the Kids International Wellness Initiative (KIWI). Kids were challenged to increase physical activity, eat fruits and vegetables, trade screen time for creative play and volunteer. Kids earned points. Fundraising matched points to purchase food for African orphans at the New Hope for Africa Orphanage. Children became change-makers!



The KIWI kids in this picture are holding photographs of some of the orphans they have helped

EDINA INSTITUTE FOR POSITIVE AGING

Edina



RICHARD LEIDER

Edina Institute for Positive Aging: The basic premise of EIPA is that for Edina to become a truly vibrant, community it must enhance the lives of its "seasoned citizens." By engaging all citizens and connecting them with each other, the EIPA can address the positive aging challenges confronting communities, like Edina, across the state and the country. Our thanks to steering committee partners: Edina Mayor Jim Hovland, author Richard Leider, and the Edina CES staff.



*EDINA MAYOR JIM HOVLAND
AND ALICE RANDAL*

Project Award Winner

THE ELEMENT TEEN CENTER

Coon Rapids

The Element Teen Center is a model of Community Education partnerships among the City of Coon Rapids, Coon Rapids Youth First and the Anoka-Hennepin Community Education Department. These partners provide a building, funding and leadership for the teen center, which targets teens not interested in group activities. The center is open after school and in the summer and provides teens a place to hang out.



MANY FLAGS OF NORTHBRANCH: CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE

North Branch

On February 13, 2009, the rich tapestry among the citizens of the North Branch Area Public Schools was showcased through ethnic displays, power points, performances, crafts and foods. Flags and facts about each participating family's homeland were featured. Community members of all races enjoyed conversation, laughter and appreciation for who we are as a community. The event was captured by a student photographer – creating a book to commemorate the evening program sponsored by the North Branch Area Community Education Advisory Council.



Thank you very much!

Members of the MCEA Awards Committee would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the winners and to express their appreciation to all the individuals who submitted nominations for the 2009 MCEA Awards.

2009 MCEA Awards Committee Members:

- Michelle Peacock – Co-ChairBecker
- Marcia Provencher – Co-ChairLitchfield
- Bridget GothbergSt. Louis Park
- Nancy TofteThief River Falls
- Joan EisenreichMankato
- Colleen LeBlancFort Ripley
- Dolf MoonHutchinson
- Jeanne Straus.....Minnetonka
- Deb KarausOwatonna
- Stacey Austing-JacobsonMelrose
- Nicole WilkeAnnandale
- Chris KosloskiSartell
- Barb NorthwayRockford