AdvancED Kansas Excellence in Education Award

AdvancED Kansas is proud to announce that Ann McGuff is the recipient of the 2015 AdvancED Excellence in Education Award! The state-level award is presented in each state to one individual who has demonstrated unparalleled leadership in promoting and advancing excellence in education. Criteria include a nominee’s success in the following areas:

- Generates a common vision and mission for higher expectations among students, faculty and the education community.
- Demonstrates a record of significant and distinguished contribution to the education profession.
- Provides a lasting positive impact on student learning.
- Serves as a role model and mentor for students and/or future generations of educators.
- Demonstrates significant professional contribution to NCA CASI, NWAC or SACS CASI.

**Ann McGuff** is the principal at Good Shepherd Parish School in Shawnee. She began her career in early childhood at Brookridge Day School, then graduated to Our Lady of Lourdes, moving immediately to 2nd grade and then 4th grade! Unfortunately, she was moved back to 2nd grade but thoroughly enjoyed working at Nativity where former parents & students rave about the strong, positive impact she had on them. Ann moved to Good Shepherd to help build their junior high program and to attend school with her son. She loved it and has been there now for 15 years! She is known for her emphasis on literature and math but also fosters life skills used in any career. She became their NCA Math Committee Chair and was then asked to pursue the principalship! She served for one year as assistant and then took the helm. She is a lifelong learner and regularly attends state and national conferences like this to keep her expertise sharp.

Mrs. McGuff created a school where staff and students could flourish. She introduced innovative math programs, implemented a Student Improvement Team and consistently encourages staff and parents to use these resources. Ann also promotes the AdvancED process by choosing qualified staff to lead. She provides effective professional development including differentiated instruction, Multi-tier System of Supports (MTSS), Common Core, utilizing data to better inform instruction and more to be faithful to the continuous improvement process. Ann encourages staff
members to use technology and with limited financial resources has secured SMARTboards, laptops, a well utilized computer lab and iPads. Under her leadership, Good Shepherd has been recognized as the Top 25 Private Schools in the Kansas City Metroplex by the Kansas City Business Journal, a Building of Excellence on the Kansas assessments in each of the assessed areas for numerous years, and in 2012 and 2013, they received the Kansas Governor’s Achievement Award.

The superintendent of the Archdiocese has tapped Ann to prepare multiple professional learning sessions for principals on Common Core in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. She has mentored several new principals who have relied on her guidance and support and has served as the co-lead principal for the Johnson County Catholic principals.

Her fellow principals recognized her educational leadership by asking her to serve on the AdvancED teams and that much visibility and quality work made me quickly ask her to serve as a Lead Evaluator. She now is in the double digits for service on accreditation teams in the past three years and led four teams in the 2013-2014 school year alone.

Ann McGuff is deserving of the 2015 AdvancED Excellence in Education Award. She symbolizes educational excellence, has a passion to help all students and teachers succeed, and has demonstrated her willingness and ability to lead within her building and archdiocese.

M. Claradine Johnson Award Winners

This is the fourteenth year the M. Claradine Johnson Award has been given, with the first year recipient being the namesake of the award. Dr. Johnson served as the state director of Kansas NCA CASI before the organization evolved to AdvancED Kansas. At that time, the organization moved from the model focused on inputs to the outcomes model that is far more focused on student performance. Claradine provided leadership during those trying times when the state accreditation system and NCA were first implementing the outcomes model, and she was instrumental in ensuring that quality was incorporated into every aspect.

The criteria used for selection of the three winners included:

- History of work with AdvancED/NCA CASI and AdvancED Kansas
- Leadership within the school, school system and/or state
- Educational excellence and/or innovation
- Service to school, school system and/or state
- Other/extra factors

Dr. Maureen Huppe the principal of Nativity Parish School in Leawood, Kansas. She exemplifies educational excellence in her leadership and vision that creates a culture of collaboration and high-quality education. Her commitment to school improvement through AdvancED and NCA CASI spans over 30 years. Maureen has served as a Lead Evaluator, including serving on four teams just last year. She has also served on building committees as well as the chairperson for the Kansas City Archdiocese.

Dr. Huppe is recognized in the Archdiocese for her excellent leadership skills and dedication, leading a variety of committees including both the writing and theology curriculum teams. She has led the Johnson County Catholic Principals group as well as served as a mentor for new principals.
who benefited from her guidance. Her colleagues seek her out to provide professional development for their schools. She is an expert on assisting teachers with collecting and analyzing data to assist in curriculum adjustments.

Maureen keeps current with developments in the field of education in particular that of special education and serving students’ social needs. Using the research from her dissertation on principal attitudes towards students with disabilities and other professional readings, she has provided professional learning opportunities on helping student with both learning and social disabilities to succeed.

Dr. Huppe demonstrates exemplary contributions to the profession of education. She is a leader who inspires others around her to excel. Her commitment and dedication to not only to the students and teachers but also to the community in which she serves makes her an excellent candidate for the M. Claradine Johnson Award.

Michelle Hanes is a lady with many titles in USD 218 in Elkhart. She began her work with AdvancED as the Communications Representative of the elementary school for three years. For the past eight years, she served as the System AdvancED Representative for USD 218. She was instrumental in preparing for the External Reviews for all three schools in the school system. She coordinated the gathering and preparation of artifacts and finalized all of the reports. She now is doing similarly as they prepare for system accreditation, with a review scheduled for next year.

As Title teacher, Mrs. Hanes felt there was too much division among buildings and grade levels, so she created a floating teacher idea who was responsible to communicate on a regular basis to the entire school system to ensure the success of Literacy Training. This idea took her frustration and turned it into a success story and her new assignment! While she began with a degree in Music Education, she now had an elementary education degree, an ESL endorsement and a master’s degree in Reading Specialty. She attends many conferences and workshops to continue to learn and support the teachers.

She now provides leadership in the school system as the Literacy Coach, Curriculum Coordinator, Assessment Coordinator and the AdvancED System Representative. She meets with high school teachers quarterly to discuss assessments and any AdvancED initiatives. She meets with the elementary and middle school collaboration teams weekly. During PK-8 collaborations, she leads the grade level teachers and specialty teachers in discussions concerning student issues, assessment data, scheduling for assessments and general items throughout the year. She leads all teachers in State Assessment regulations, trainings, and sharing results as well as coordinating all of the proctors the procedures for testing. She keeps teachers current on the latest standards and federal regulations, assists teachers with supplemental programs and materials for MTSS, Special Education, Title services and general classrooms, along with the training for them. She manages reports, certificates, and enrollment of students into software programs, schedules the use of technology, and anything it takes to make supplemental programs successful for teachers and students. Michelle has hosted other educators to tour and learn about the programs they’re using.
In addition to her many responsibilities in the system, she saw the need for activities for children in the community and started a dance studio. This expanded to tumbling, karate, and cheer experiences for students who otherwise would have to travel over 40 miles one way for similar experiences. These experiences have allowed students to advance in their coordination and self-discipline benefitting them in recreational and interscholastic sports as well as the classroom. She and her husband are business owners who regularly support the system’s projects and activities. She is truly an asset to USD 218 and the community of Elkhart and neighboring communities. Mrs. Michelle Hanes is a worthy recipient of the 2015 M. Claradine Johnson Award.

**AdvancED Kansas Council Service Awards**

Council members give tirelessly of their time hosting the fall conference, reviewing reports, providing input to AdvancED practices and attending meetings! They always have been huge advocates and provided a voice in the field for AdvancED!

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Dr. Nancy Bolz, Andrea Hillebert, Jeannette Nobo

**Andrea Hillebert** (2009 - 2015)
Elementary/Middle School Representative
Kansas City Archdiocesan Representative

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**Continuous Accreditation Awards**

**25 Year Award (1990 – 2015)**

- Xavier Elementary School, Leavenworth
- Most Pure Heart of Mary School, Topeka

**100 Year Award (1915 – 2015)**

- Manhattan High School, Manhattan
- Schlagle High School, Kansas City

Most Pure Heart of Mary, Topeka
Gayle Nelson & Eric White
External Reviews
“Class of 2015”

Bishop Miege High School
Christ the King Catholic School
Clay Center Community Middle School
Cure’ of Ars School
Holy Cross Catholic School
Holy Name Elementary School
Holy Name Elementary School
Holy Spirit Elementary School
Immaculata High School
John Paul II Elementary School
Kiddi College of Wellington Park
Manhattan High School
Our Lady of Unity Elementary School
Sacred Heart (Plainville)
Schlagle High School
Seaman High School
St. Agnes Elementary School
St. Andrew's Elementary School
St. Ann Catholic School
St. John’s Grade School
St. John's Jr./Sr. High School
St. Joseph Elementary School
St. Mary Grade School
St. Patrick’s Elementary School
St. Paul Catholic School
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School
St. Thomas Aquinas High School
Sts. Peter and Paul School
Tipton Catholic Jr./Sr. High School
Wyandotte High School

Each school received an AdvancED flag from Conference Co-Chairs Gayle Nelson and Jeannette Nobo!
External Review Teams

**Lead Evaluators**
- Sharon Bell
- Nancy Bolz (1+1)*
- Nick Compagnone
- Ann Connor
- Edith Eskilson
- Margaret Foncannon
- Margie Hill
- Andrea Hillebert (1+1)
- Maureen Huppe (2+1)
- Michael Janzen
- Dawn Johnson
- Shellaine Kiblinger
- Monika King (1+1)
- Rick Kraus
- Karla Leibham (3)
- Lisa Marenghi
- Ann McGuff (1+1)
- Becky Murray
- Jeannette Nobo
- Kristin Sherwood
- William Shimeall
- Ed West (2)
- Eric White (2+1)

**Team Members**
- Becky Akright
- Gary Andersen
- Nick Antista (2)
- Chris Bacon
- Peggy Bahr
- R. Barr
- Robert Bayer Sr
- Janet Bernd
- Pam Bevis
- Ken Bockwinkel
- Jayne Brandel
- Dennis Burke
- Nancy Butters
- Allison Carney
- Sue Carter (2)
- Diane Chapman
- Darlene Chaput
- Cindy Chrisman
- Eileen Colling
- Cindy Compagnone
- Michael Cullinan
- Kelly Dandurand (3)
- Cyndi Danner-Kuhn
- Herman Davis Jr
- Daniel Dester
- Earl Donalson
- Beth Eilert
- Kyle Ellis
- Maureen Engen
- Susan Englemann
- Susie English
- Jamie Finkeldei (2)
- Catherine Fithian (2)
- Michelle Gavin (2)
- Tori Goetz
- Kim Hammers
- Mary Beth Hare
- Barbara Hawkins (2)
- Rob Hays
- Kevin Hedrick
- Tonia Helm
- Lynda Higgins
- Stephanie Hill
- Joe Holdren
- Karen Hopson
- Joe Hornback
- Charles Huber
- Scott Hulshoff
- Heather Huscher
- Michael Kuhlman
- Amy Johnson
- Jean Johnson
- Keith Jones
- Ryan Karjala
- Theresa Lein
- Todd Leonard
- Diane Liebsch
- Jane Limback
- Mary Lonker
- Rusty Luenger
- Jodie Maddox
- Mark Madsen
- Mary Mattern
- Angie Messer
- Phil Messner Ed.D
- Craig Moss (2)
- Patricia Newton
- Michelle Olson
- Sylvia Parra
- Deborah Perbeck
- Roger Perkins
- Denise Perry
- Mike Poliquin
- Evelyn Porter
- Jackie Ralph
- Shane Rapp
- Cecelia Reinert
- Relynn Reynoso
- Kathy Rhodes
- Linda Roggenkamp
- Samantha Roy
- Randy Salisbury
- Rob Sattler
- Annette Saunders
- Brian Schenck
- Donna Schmidt
- Lee Schmidt
- Dee Schwartz
- Helen Schwinn
- Jennifer Seaman
- Melissa Sharp
- Kristin Sherwood
- Jane Shriver
- Lucas Shivers
- Natalie Steiner
- Grant Stephenson
- Philip Stutty
- Jane Sullivan (2)
- Russell Swisher
- Theresa Van Goethem
- Amanda Vega-Mavec (2)
- Kevin Weber
- Rachel Wentling (2)
- Keith Wilson
- Sally Yahnke

*Numbers represent the number of times they served on a team; if more than one number, the first represents they were the Lead Evaluator and the second a team member.*
Our sincere thanks to everyone who attended the conference!

Nancy & Heather