

Mark Foellmer is a recent retiree after teaching Physical Education, Health and coaching for 24 years at Wentworth JHS in Calumet City, Illinois. Prior to his teaching career, he was the Sports Director for the Prairie State Games, a program of the Governor's Council on Health and Physical Fitness and the United States Olympic Committee in Illinois. The Prairie State Games functioned as a statewide Olympic competition or Sports Festival serving over 10,000 athletes in the state of Illinois. After six years in that role, Mark moved on to the Sports Director of the Rich Port YMCA in LaGrange, Illinois and was recognized by the Chicago Metropolitan YMCA organization as Sports Director of the year finalist. During this time he also served on the Executive Board of the Great Lakes Region of the United States Volleyball Association (currently known as USA Volleyball). Mark was a player, official and club coach during this time.

During Mark's teaching career, he worked hard to develop a quality Health and Physical Education program and eventually lead his district with regular district wide HPE staff meetings, through which were developed a curriculum map for K-8, district wide Family Wellness nights, lesson plans and designs, fitness testing procedures for accurate implementation and data gathering techniques for district and state reporting. Mark worked hard to advocate for HPE at the local grass roots level through the Family Wellness Night program, the Calumet City 5K and the Fireman's Challenge, reaching out to local health-related businesses and organizations, parents, staff and local politicians.

Mark has been very busy serving the Physical Education profession in several different roles and responsibilities from the local level to the national level. He has served as the Awards Chair, Delegate and President of the Northeastern District of IAHPERD, served as the Social Media Chair, served on the Program Enhancement Grant committee and will begin this fall, his role as President of IAHPERD. He has served on the Awards committee for the Midwest District of SHAPE and currently serves on its Leadership

Council. At the SHAPE national level, Mark has served on the Concussion Protocol, Coaches Toolbox and PE vs PA ad hoc/task force committees while a member of the Physical Activity Council. The last two years he has been a delegate at the SHAPE Boston and SHAPE Nashville meetings and conventions.

Advocating for the profession is a high priority for Mark as he has attended Speak Out Days in Washington DC and Shape Up Days at Illinois' state capitol and continues to spread the word regarding the importance of advocacy through his many breakout sessions at conferences across the United States.

Mark has been a recipient of the Northeastern District of IAHPERD Teacher of the Year, IAHPERD Middle School PE TOY and SHAPE Midwest District Middle School TOY. He also was recently honored with the Northeastern District of IAHPERD Service Award. Mark was also honored for his work with the Prairie State Games by the United States Olympic Committee.