District Scholar and Recognition Awards Ceremony

SHAPE America Central District Convention

January 26-28, 2017
Cedar Falls, IA

Major League
Congratulations to our Central District Colleagues Earning SHAPE America National Awards – to be presented in Boston at the Professional Recognition Ceremony

Patty Hacker- SD Honor Award

Nancy Christensen- MN Honor Award

Joella Mehrhof- KS North American Society for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance Professionals


**District Scholar & Recognition Award Committees**

Megan Atkins NE  
Clayton Ellis CO  
Bev Ahern IA  
Joan Brewer KS  
Sherry Folsom-Meek MN  
Britton Johnson MO  
Mark Byra WY  
Terry Ferebee-Eckmann ND  
Scott Klungseth SD  
R. Scott Gorman KS  
Donna Carey CO  
Jen Neubauer IA  
Brenda Bowman KS  
Nancy Christensen MN  
John Ponzar MO  
Lacey Peters NE  
Nikki Lindgren ND  
Nikki Heinz SD

**Executive Committee**

President  Amy Heuer  
President Elect  Clayton Ellis  
Past President  Deb Stephenson  
Executive Director  Scott Strohmeyer

**Leadership Council Members**

Clayton Ellis  Jackie Hall  
Kari Bullis  Kim Morrissey  
Sarah Jo Heath  Todd Thacker  
Joe McCarthy  CJ Johnson  
Dennis Docheff  
Charlene Burgeson  BOD Liaison

**Standing Committee Chairs**

Chris Watts  Megan Adkins  
Nancy Christensen  Dennis Docheff  
Scott Strohmeyer  Jan Grenko Lehman  
Sarah Jo Heath  Scott Gorman  
Vicki Johnson  Rick Pappas  
Julie Lueckenhoff  Joella Mehrhof

**Award Winner**

**District Scholar**

**Russell Carson**

**CO**

**Russell L. Carson, PhD,** is an associate professor within the School of Sport and Exercise Science at the University of Northern Colorado and the Department of Community and Behavioral Health in the Colorado School of Public Health. Dr. Carson received his training in PreK-12 physical education, sport psychology, and health and kinesiology from Springfield College, Miami University, and Purdue University, respectively. Russ has over 20 years of academic experience across internationals contexts as a secondary physical education/health teacher, academic program abroad director (Italy '08; New Zealand '10, '16; Australia '14), and faculty member at Louisiana State University.

Since 2010, Russ has been a recognized leader of the comprehensive school physical activity program (CSPAP) model and the development of corresponding training programs. He has authored more than 15 funded projects (totaling $1.5 million), has 45 publications (including *Play On!*, 2015, 2nd ed.), and has 65 international/national presentations in the field of education, most notably focusing on whole school physical activity promotion. He is a research fellow of SHAPE America, the inaugural Chair of the CSPAP research SIG, and teaches courses in research methods, CSPAP, and grant writing.
MVP- Ripley E. “Rip” Marsten

Ripley Marston was born and raised in Virginia. He received his undergraduate degree at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia. Rip taught elementary physical education for the Lynchburg (VA) public schools. His Masters of Science degree was awarded by the University of Tennessee, and he taught in several of the Knoxville Tennessee Public Elementary Schools. He earned his Ph.D from The University of Iowa. Rip started at UNI in 1976; he teaches elementary physical education methods courses, materials classes and various activity classes.

Throughout his career, Rip has been dedicated to sharing his knowledge and creativity with countless students. His positive impact has been a contributing factor to the high quality of physical educators graduating from the University of Northern Iowa. On behalf of all UNI physical education majors, we thank you for your personal and professional guidance and mentorship.

2017 Recognition Awards Ceremony Program

Welcome
Past President’s Salute
Pledge of Allegiance
In Memoriam
Service Recognition
Executive Committee
Leadership Council
Committee Chairs

Award Presentations

2017 District Scholar Presentation
Recognition Committee Teachers of the Year
Kathleen Kinderfather Award
Mark L. Harvey Legacy
Recognition Award and Scholarship
Honor Award
Recognition of SHAPE America Awards
Special Recognition
Honor Awards
North American Society Award

Presidential Citations
Passing of the Gavel
Closing Ceremonies and Convention Announcements

Amy Heuer
Amy Heuer
Nancy Christensen
Amy Heuer
Scott Gorman
Deb Stephenson
Amy Heuer
Jan Grenko
Lehman
2016 State Association Teachers of the Year

Adapted Physical Education TOY’s
Sarah Jo Heath- KS
Susan Wallace-Seaman- CO

Health Education TOY’s
Deanne Romero- CO

Elementary Physical Education TOY’s
Marlys Gwaltney- KS
Wendy Lynch- CO
Levi Nevell- MO
Justin Wiese- IA

Middle School Physical Education TOY’s
Joe Bishop- CO
Cindy Hutcheson- IA
Cynthia “CJ” Johnson- MN
Megan Leaming- KS
Katie Severson- MO

High School Physical Education TOY’s
Abby Goodlaxson- IA
Ben Wells- CO

North American Society Award 2017 (NAS)

Joella Mehrhof
KS

North American Society of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance Professionals (NASHPERSD)

• SHAPE America- Society of Health and Physical Educator ... in partnership with...
• Physical and Health Education Canada (PHE Canada)

Established in 1999, the North American Society (NAS) recognizes outstanding professionals from within the allied professions of health education, physical education, recreation, sport and dance in North America. Individuals who are currently members of AAHPERD or PHE Canada, who have demonstrated OUTSTANDING competence through professional involvement over a period of at least 20 years and meet at least TWO of the identified aspects of professional endeavor:

• Service as an educator in the public or private sector within any community or educational setting.
• Administration within the public or private sector within any community or educational setting.
• Significant contributions to the professional literature within their discipline.
• Significant contributions to the scholarly literature within their discipline.
• Sustained involvement in leadership activities within their discipline.
• Other evidence of leadership within the profession including service to the community at large.
**PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS**

### Honor Award
- 2007: Wendy Trappier (ND)
- Margie Miller (MO)
- Marilyn Jensen (SD)
- 2008: Melissa Parker (CO)
- Nancy Christensen (MN)
- Gay Hughes (WY)
- 2009: Marian Simpson (CO)
- Dennis Docheff (MO)
- Jessie Dow (SD)
- 2010: Rich Burke (MN)
- Kelly Cook (KS)
- Kathy Kochersperger (KS)
- Sue Simson (KS)
- 2012: Patricia Morrison (CO)
- Amy Heuer (ND)
- Deb Stephensom (IA)
- Rheepta Vetter (MO)
- 2014: Joyce Ellis (KS)
- Amy Kaiser (MN)
- Scott Strohmeyer (MO)
- 2015: Clayton Ellis (CO)
- Sherry Folsom-Meek (MN)
- Becky Gunderson (ND)
- CJ Johnson (MN)

### District Scholar
- 2000: Larry Henseley (IA)
- Sherry Folsom-Meek (MN)
- Melissa Parker (CO)
- James A. Richardson (SD)
- Donna Terbizan (ND)
- John Rohwer (MN)
- Joella Mehrhof (KS)
- Betsy Silva (SD)
- 2007: John Zody (KS)
- Scott Strohmeyer (MO)
- Patty Hacker (SD)
- Sue Barnd (CO)
- Bridgett Duos (MN)
- Susan Tarr (MN)
- Tristan Wallhead (WY)

### Kathleen Kinderfather
- 2006: Good Times Girls (MO)
- 2007: Pinedale Ropin’ Wranglers (WY)
- 2008: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NE)
- 2009: Colorado National Sports Center for the Disabled (WY)
- 2010: AHA Greater Minnesota Midwest Affiliate (MN)
- 2011: Iowa Department of Natural Resources-Shooting Sports (NE)
- 2012: Cardinals Care: Caring for Kids (MO)
- 2013: Courage Kennedy Institute: Adaptive Sports & Recreation (MN)

### Mark Harvey Legacy
- 2011: Kathleen Engle (WY)
- Scott Gorman (KS)
- Missy Parker (CO)
- Gay Hughes (WY)
- Rick Pappas (KS)
- Dennis Docheff (MO)
- Gale Wiedow (SD)

### Mark Harvey Legacy Future Professional Scholarship
- 2011: Danielle Schlecht (SD)
- Megan McColloch (MN)
- Mike Meyers (CO)
- Erin Ellinger (SD)

### Award Winner

**Health Education Teacher of the Year Award**

**Deanne Romero**

CO

Deanne is the Health/Physical Education teacher at Silver Hills Middle School in Westminster, CO where she promotes healthy behavior in students that goes beyond the classroom. In her health education classes, she provides learning experiences that allow students to address their individual values, attitudes and beliefs, to support a healthy lifestyle. Age appropriate and developmentally appropriate information is delivered through student-centered, interactive and experiential learning to help students make connections between their cognitive and emotional development. Deanne has served on the SHAPE Colorado board and has presented many sessions over the years. Her last presentation was an all day workshop on GAME ON. This program supports efforts in creating healthier school environments for all. The “Game On” program uses a variety of learning activities to educate students and their families on how to be healthy. These strategies range from movement breaks, nutrition education to active learning opportunities. She has also volunteered with the Kaiser Permanente Thriving Schools initiative, serves as a committee co-chair for Colorado Association for Healthy Kids, and has mentored teachers on the benefits of incorporating movement breaks into their classrooms.
Sarah Jo teaches Adapted Physical Education in Sedgwick County, Kansas. This is her 7th year teaching with the Sedgwick County Cooperative. Her focus on diverse developmental and remedial activities paired with her planning and instruction help ensure students experience success alongside their nondisabled peers.

One of Sarah's big events of the school year, is her Adapted PE baseball day. Her students come together with other volunteers and play a game of baseball with all the traditional events that happen at a real game. The event has become end of the year APE tradition and celebration greatly enjoyed by all. One of Sarah's best qualities is her ability to build positive relationships with her students. She connects with each individually and establishes a rapport that promotes mutual safety and respect.

Sarah also remains readily involved in the HPERD profession at the local, KAHPERD and SHAPE America Central District levels. She is active in committee work and regularly exhibits professional initiative regarding involvement in activities supporting an ongoing commitment to the field.

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**PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**Adapted PE TOY**

- 1998 Denise Hopedahl ND
- 1999 Gary Taylor KS
- 2000 Robin Olberding IA
- 2001 Maria Bergerson MN
- 2002 Anne Abbott KS
- 2003 Pat Morrison-Hughes CO*
- 2004 Richard Burke MN*
- 2005 Ann Griffin IA*
- 2006 Cindy Combs KS*
- 2007 Nancy Rad Gordon MN*
- 2008 Luann Palmquist MN
- 2009 Deb Johansen MN
- 2010 Brenda Bowman KS
- 2011 Kay Oling MN
- 2012 Margery Thompson KS
- 2014 Mike Doyle MN
- 2018 Kelly Kennedy CO

**Dance ED K-12**

- 1997 Lieschen Fink MO
- 1998 Brenda Goodwin MO
- 2000 Madeline Silver MO
- 2001 Sally Burgess KS
- 2002 Mary Harding MN*
- 2004 Marcia Small CO
- 2011 Linda Marsh CO
- 2013 Linda Marsh CO
- 2014 MacKenzie Mushel CO*
- 2015 Joseph DeMers CO

**Dance Ed- Col/Univ**

- 2004 Josie Metal-Corbin MN
- 2005 Cynthia Herndon IA

**Health ED K-12**

- 1997 Donita Getting IA
- 1998 Elaine Bruhe MO
- 1999 Joan Storh KE*
- 2000 Janet Tucker NE
- 2001 Janelle Roberts-Gaede KS
- 2002 La Vonne Uffelman NE
- 2003 Jean Pletchette IA
- 2004 Bonnie Young Johnson MN*
- 2005 Terri O'Leary MO
- 2006 Marla Drewel-Lynch MO
- 2007 Marcene Malusky ND*
- 2008 Melissa Lightfoot MO
- 2009 Rhonda Kennis SD
- 2010 Larry Deal WY
- 2011 Barb Bjorn
- 2012 Dianne Loberg ND
- 2014 Diane Titterington KS
- 2015 Melissa Jackson NE

**Elementary TOY**

- 1999 Michael Cosgrove MO*
- 2000 Rhonda Holt KS*
- 2001 Sheri Povendo MO
- 2002 Shelley Paul Smith MO
- 2003 Michelle Iglehart MO
- 2004 Lois Boeyink IA*
- 2005 Rick Fappas KS
- 2006 Sue W-Brittenham CO
- 2007 Connie Jander MO
- 2008 Kathleen Wagner KS*
- 2009 Karen Ricker NE
- 2010 Lana Peterson-Presler NE*
- 2012 Mary Driemeyer MO
- 2013 Sue Wright CO
- 2014 Shelly Hoffman KS*
- 2015 Lynn Burrows CO
- 2016 Beau Bragg KS

**Middle School TOY**

- 2000 Jennifer R. Stipeitch MO
- 2001 Joyce Ellis KS
- 2002 Joyce Irwin KS
- 2003 Mary Ann Donay ND
- 2004 Candi Mountain-Gaddie CO
- 2005 Jonetta Dixon MO
- 2006 Jim Arico MO
- 2007 Lori Heger KS
- 2008 Cecilia Studdard CO
- 2009 Jennifer Schnell IA
- 2010 Lisa Sinjen ND
- 2011 Andrea McCarthy CO
- 2012 Mathew Monfre CO
- 2013 Jason Buesch KS*
- 2014 Diane Wyatt KS*
- 2015 Brandon Wolff KS
- 2016 Karl Elly KS

**High School TOY**

- 1999 Jean Drennan KS
- 2000 Julie Lueckenhoff MO
- 2001 Diane Fedje Weisteiger ND
- 2002 LeAnna Beall KS
- 2003 Suzanne Newlin CO*
- 2004 Anna Mead CO
- 2005 Becky Hoffman MO
- 2006 Katherine Bacon KS
- 2008 Candee Stuchlik-Thode KS
- 2009 Becky Winter KS
- 2010 Clayton Ellis CO*
- 2011 Kris Ayers CO
- 2012 Tracy Keutzer MO
- 2013 Tari Garner MO
- 2014 Kelli Tuttle IA
- 2015 Amy Bommes KS
- 2016 Monique Guidry CO

* National Award Winner
Marlys Gwaltney has been a teacher at Bentley Primary School for 20 years. During her tenure she has significantly increased the depth and breadth of Physical Education curriculum and implemented many programs and initiatives to promote physical activity and wellness. Programs for students and staff include exercise balls in the classrooms, hallway Flash Fitness activities, the Miles & Miles Club, food taste testing opportunities, and the “Second Chance” breakfast program. Her teaching passion is to meet the diverse interests and needs of her students and assure they are addressed on a grand scale.

Her imagination and creativity is evident in her daily lesson plans, and especially during Jump Rope for Heart and Field Day events. Ms. Gwaltney has even found a way to teach “real-world” nutrition, money, and social skills through her mock store called “Gwaltney's Grocery”. Throughout her career, Marlys has dedicated her time and energy to improving her physical education program through grant opportunities and professional development. Her ultimate goal is to assure the future well being of her young students by providing them the skills to be active and healthy for a lifetime.
Award Winner

Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year

Cynthia “CJ” Johnson - MN

Cyndee “CJ” Johnson is a dedicated physical education teacher and life-long learner with a passion for education and children. Her resume includes 39 years of teaching physical education and DAPE along with 21 years of coaching experience. CJ is an exemplary board member having served ten years as an officer for MNSHAPE. She is an effective, detailed oriented Secretary for SHAPE America Central District, serves as the Minnesota Representative for CD’s Collaboration Committee and was a National NASPE STARS reviewer. CJ has hosted multiple educational workshops, leads Enko schools participating in a three year pilot study on academic achievement and fitness (sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Education), and has presented numerous times at MNSHAPE and CD conventions.

CJ was awarded the 2015 MNSHAPE Middle School TOY Award. She has also earned the MNSHAPE Dance TOY Award (2008), the MNSHAPE Elementary TOY Award (2004), the Minnesota Curling Association Award (2008), the Curler of the Year Award (Duluth Curling Club), the United States Curling Association and United States Olympic Committee Curling Coach of the Year Award (2004) and the Minnesota Section 7A Girls Track & Field Coach of the Year Award (twice). As one can see, CJ is a master teacher who can balance teaching, service and professional development, and still have a little time to enjoy a solid game of golf.

Honor Award

Joe Deutsch

ND

Joe Deutsch has influenced SHAPE America and PETE through his research, writing, presentations and service. As a Physical Best Certified Health-Fitness Instructor, he has trained numerous PB Specialists. He has given two international, four National, five regional, and 14 state Physical Best and Presidential Youth Fitness Program presentations. Joe has authored over 25 refereed publications related to Physical Education, Youth Sport Coaching, Physical Best and/or the Presidential Youth Fitness Program. He has also authored a chapter in SHAPE America’s Physical Best Teacher’s Guide textbook… aptly entitled “Physical Education for Lifelong Fitness.”

Joe has served his state association in multiple positions culminating in becoming NDSHAPE President in 2014. He has also served Central District as the Elementary Physical Education Chair and President Elect and President of the Sport and Physical Education Division. Joe has served as a publically elected member of the Fargo Park Board for 10 years as well as serving in many other elected national association positions. He is a husband and proud father of three boys and coaches youth football and wrestling in his free time.

Our Honor Awards Purpose and Tradition

The presentation of the Honor Award provides our professional association an opportunity to recognize our fellow Central District members for outstanding service. Criteria include: membership in SHAPE America, at least ten years of experience as a teacher, supervisor, or administrator in the field. The candidate must possess: high moral character and personal integrity, render service contributions through the association (state, district, national), have outstanding service as a teacher or administrator and illustration of meritorious service.
**Award Winner**

**Mark Harvey**  
**Legacy Recognition Award**

**Joella Mehrhof, KS**

Dr. Joella Mehrhof is a visionary leader, inspiring educator, and consummate professional who exemplifies the spirit of devoted service. She is widely known as a presenter and has presented more than 100 times at various conferences. She has personally organized over 30 conferences and workshops, has served as an invited speaker in 15 states, and has conducted over 40 in-services for physical educators.

In her scholarly efforts, she has received 16 grants, co-authored 15 books, and published numerous journal articles. She has been honored with an exhaustive list of distinguished awards including the Margie Hanson Elementary Physical Education Service Award; NASPE Outstanding Mentor of the Year Award; SHAPE Honor Award; Central District Scholar; and the Roe R. Cross Distinguished Professor. To observe her career contributions is to understand that she draws others into her circle of excellence and influence, and gains the admiration of her colleagues, students, and administrators for her experience and creativity.

She has never “worked” a single day of her professional life. Dr. Mehrhof loves what she does and smiles enthusiastically as she naturally, genuinely and passionately expresses her love for people and for the profession. Dr. Joella Mehrhof is a true servant leader who carries forward the legacy of Dr. Mark Harvey.

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**Award Winner**

**Abby Goodlaxson, IA**

Abby is currently enjoying her 18th year of teaching Physical Education and Health at Okoboji High School in Milford, Iowa. She has a true passion for teaching and coaching, but more importantly, building meaningful personal relationships. She has coached numerous sports including basketball, volleyball, and softball (HS) as well as cross-country and track (JH). Aside from teaching and coaching, she enjoys being a Master Trainer for the nationally known... 8 to Great... self-empowerment program.

A verified fitness fanatic, you will find Abby participating in many activities with her students, family, and friends. She enjoys running, cycling, yoga, swimming, YMCA classes, and the list goes on and on. She always gets others involved and serves as Coordinator of Fitness Fiasco at her school. This encourages students, staff, and community members to come together and participate in designated motivational physical, mental/emotional, and social challenges to earn points and prizes.

Abby has held a variety of positions for IAHPERD including School Health Education Section Chair, Legislative Affairs, and is currently an Executive Board Member. She has presented with MK Mueller, the author of 8 to Great at the 2012 IAHPERD Convention. Her district was the recipient of the Carol White PE Grant in 2009, which gave her and her colleagues many opportunities to grow professionally while networking and traveling to national conventions.
Kathleen Kinderfather Award

The St. Louis Cardinal’s CARDINALS CARE program is Named in honor of our very own Dr. Kathy Kinderfather, dancer extraordinaire, talented mountain hiker, survivalist and Central District Past-President (1990). Awards Kathy earned include: Central District Honor Award (1988), SHAPE Honor Award (1988), SHAPE Luther Gulick Award (2000) and winner of way too many more awards to list. The purpose of her award is to recognize a group or organization (not an individual), which may or may not be members of Shape America Central District but who, through their work in HPERD and/or Sport Education, has contributed significantly to Central District and/or the state associations that comprise Central District.

Kathy Kinderfather Recipient Criteria Includes:
- Has made important contributions to HPERD and/or Sport education from the vantage point of their profession.
- Outstanding leadership
- Community service
- Innovative teaching practices
- Children and youth program development
- Has demonstrated outstanding professional integrity
- Has made contributions significant to the mission of Shape America Central District

Nomination/Selection Process:
Three letters of recommendation, along with the official nomination form, are to be submitted to the Central District Recognition Chair by November 12.

Award Winner

Kathleen Kinderfather Award

Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteers

IA

Rockwell Collins Retirees Volunteers is a unique and talented group who have made it their mission to better their community and open the world of activity and sports to students and adults with special abilities needs.

A partnership between Rockwell Collins retirees, Community Corrections Services and local adapted physical educators has led to the invention and production of numerous assistive devices that help students with disabilities. The group has developed hi-tech and low-tech equipment innovations, inventions or modifications that allow students to participate in a wide variety of physical education activities. This project has facilitated inclusion and innovative instruction for 32 school districts serving 73,000 students, 8,200 of whom have disabilities.

RCRV has made a significant improvement in the lives of students with disabilities and their physical education teachers by making life changing physical activities available to ALL! This is truly a WIN WIN WIN community program.