

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Pikeland's Hawley honored as 'Superintendent of Distinction'

Pikeland Superintendent Paula Hawley was honored as a regional "Superintendent of Distinction" at an awards luncheon Tuesday (April 21) at the governor's Executive Mansion in Springfield. Hawley was selected by her peers in the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) Two Rivers Region.

"I'm very honored to be selected by my peers for this award. They continually provide me with support and motivation in the profession. They force me to learn, grow, and excel every day and for that I am thankful," said Hawley, who has been an educator for 28 years, the last 10 as superintendent of Pikeland Community Unit School District 10 in Pittsfield. "I was born and raised in the Pikeland community, and I am fortunate to work with a Board of Education, staff and community that values education."

Hawley was one of 20 school superintendents from around the state to be recognized as a "Superintendent of Distinction." Governor Bruce Rauner and IASA Executive Director Brent Clark were among those taking part in the awards ceremony.

"Public education is facing some of its most difficult times, and that is when leadership is most important. These 'Superintendents of Distinction' were selected by their peers in their regions because of the dedication, commitment and leadership that they have demonstrated, and we are pleased to recognize them for what they do to fulfill the promise of public education for children all over the state," Clark said.

Hawley attained her Bachelor's Degree from Stetson University, her Master's Degree from the University of Illinois-Springfield, and her Educational Specialist Degree from Western Illinois University. She was a teacher and building administrator before being named superintendent of the Pikeland district in 2005.

Under Hawley's leadership, Pikeland has remained fiscally sound, has made multiple building improvements and upgrades and has continued to maintain an outstanding staff.

Hawley has one son, Ben, and two daughters, Sydney and Lauren.

The awards and luncheon were sponsored by Horace Mann, one of the nation's largest insurers focusing on educators' needs, and Herff Jones, one of the largest suppliers of class rings, yearbooks and graduation caps, gowns and announcements.

"Superintendents face many challenges. From balancing budgets to keeping schools and students safe, they work to put the needs of students first and consistently work to find, nurture and support quality teachers," said Marita Zuraitis, Horace Mann President and Chief Executive Officer. "Their efforts make their schools outstanding

learning environments, and that excellence is what the IASA is celebrating. Horace Mann is proud to recognize and applaud the IASA 'Superintendents of Distinction.' ”

“Herff Jones celebrates the educational leaders who are being recognized today for promoting and encouraging excellence in their schools,” said Sales Representative Elizabeth Elsner. “Thank you for educating our children.”