

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Coal City's Bugg honored as 'Superintendent of Distinction'**

Coal City Superintendent Kent A. Bugg was honored as a regional "Superintendent of Distinction" at an awards luncheon Tuesday (April 21) at the governor's Executive Mansion in Springfield. Bugg was selected by his peers in the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) Three Rivers Region.

"I am honored, and humbled, to be chosen for this recognition by my peers. There are so many deserving superintendents in the Three Rivers Region who advocate every single day for quality public education. All of them are worthy of this recognition," said Bugg, who has been an educator for 26 years, the last 10 as superintendent of Coal City Community Unit District 1. "I also share this recognition with my Board of Education, administrative team and all of the incredible educators that dedicate so much time and effort into the educational opportunities our students receive. Without all of their hard work, our school district would not have been able to accomplish all of the things we have over the past ten years.

"I also believe this recognition is a reflection of the amazing students and parents we have in District 1. I cannot think of a better place to raise my family and for my kids to go to school."

Bugg 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.

Bugg attained his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Illinois, his Master's Degree in Educational Administration and his Ph.D. from Illinois State University. He was a teacher, assistant principal and principal before being named superintendent in Coal City in 2005.

Under Bugg's leadership, Coal City has facilitated the district's first standards-based curriculum and local assessment system. The community also passed a \$45 million building referendum that resulted in a new Early Childhood Center and a 75,000-square-foot addition to Coal City High School while maintaining the lowest K-12 tax rate in Grundy County, thanks in part to negotiating three tax assessment agreements with the Exelon Corporation. Other accomplishments include:

- Starting a K-8 foreign language program;

- Facilitating implementation of full day kindergarten; and
- Starting a middle school theater program.

Bugg and his wife, Debbie, have two daughters, Mackenzie and Megan.

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."