

March 23, 2017
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For Immediate Release

Horace Mann and Illinois Principals Association Announce Illinois High School Principal of the Year

Horace Mann and the Illinois Principals Association are pleased to announce that Jack Baldermann, principal of Westmont High School in Westmont, IL, has been named the 2017 Illinois High School Principal of the Year. The award recognizes high school principals who have demonstrated a positive impact on their students and learning community. Criteria for the award include:

- Demonstrates a positive impact on education and advocacy for children
- Ensures the school climate is positive and reflects high staff and student morale
- Demonstrates creativity and imagination in bringing about positive change
- Willing to take risks to improve student learning
- Moves actively to implement the goals and objectives of the school
- Works collaboratively with teachers and other staff to improve the educational program and student achievement
- Anticipates emerging problems and acts effectively to resolve them
- Involves the community in the life of the school and uses community resources for students.

Jack Baldermann has been an active member of the Illinois Principals Association for twelve years and has served in education for twenty-eight years. He has been instrumental in creating and leading the Chicagoland Advanced Placement Consortium to allow teachers and administrators share their best instructional ideas. Within the community, Jack is active in Rotary International and St. Joseph's Parish of the Knights of Columbus and has coached basketball and soccer.

"Every student is sacred," said Baldermann. "Our work is not to be easy. Our work is too challenging and too important to work in isolation, and our collective determination, effort and talents can overcome any challenge. We do not meet students halfway; we meet them wherever they are and find a way to support them to succeed. Saying this means something, but living it and getting everyone to follow through together on making this happen is what I am most proud of as a principal."

The High School Principal of the Year winner was selected from a pool of region nominees provided by the 21 Regions of the Illinois Principals Association. Mr. Baldermann will be recognized at the IPA's annual Education Leaders Fall Conference in October 2017 and will receive a \$1,000 honorarium.

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The Illinois Principals Association is a leadership organization which serves over 5,200 educational leaders throughout the state of Illinois. You can find out more about the IPA at www.ilprincipals.org. Visit <http://www.ilprincipals.org/about-ipa/awards> for more information about the IPA Principal of the Year Awards Program.

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