

PRESS RELEASE

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Illinois Principals Association Names LaGrange Principal Brian Waterman 2017 Reaching Out & Building Bridges Award Recipient

Springfield, IL – Dr. Brian Waterman, principal at Lyons Township High School in LaGrange, IL, and Nicholas Cozzi, owner of Tropical Sno of Western Springs, IL, have received the 2017 Reaching Out & Building Bridges Award from the Illinois Principals Association, sponsored by Horace Mann Companies.

The Reaching Out & Building Bridges Award was created to recognize an IPA principal or assistant principal, and an agency, association, or community member displaying an outstanding effort in creating partnerships between schools, principals, associations, and organizations for the betterment of all.

“Transition Perks” began in 2012 as an in-school coffee shop and coaster business to provide work experience to students with various disabilities and abilities participating in a life-skills transition program. As the program grew in popularity, local business owner Nicholas Cozzi offered the use of his store for the program to expand their services to the community in 2014. Cozzi has a personal connection to the store as his younger brother works at the shop as part of the transitional program.

Through this partnership, Tropical Sno provides the storefront for Transition Perks to operate during the school year, and support for training students in customer service, taking orders, tracking inventory, and handling money. All profits from the business are invested in scholarships for students in the program to help support their future educational and career endeavors.

Dr. Waterman and Cozzi will be recognized in October at a special ceremony during the IPA Education Leaders Fall Conference held in Springfield, IL.

The Illinois Principals Association serves over 5,300 educational leaders statewide and whose mission is to develop, support, and advocate for innovative educational leaders. The Reaching Out & Building Bridges Award is supported by Horace Mann Companies of Springfield, IL.

For more information about the IPA, please visit www.ilprincipals.org.

Additional Links:

Transition Perks – www.lths.net/PERKS

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