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Organization: Illinois Principals Association

Contact: Jason E. Leahy

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 217-525-1383 • Fax: 217-525-7264

Email: [jason@ilprincipals.org](mailto:jason@ilprincipals.org)

**For Immediate Release**

### **Horace Mann and Illinois Principals Association Announce Illinois Middle School Principal of the Year**

Horace Mann and the Illinois Principals Association are pleased to announce that Crystal England, principal of Henry W. Cowherd Middle School in Aurora, has been named the 2017 Illinois Middle School Principal of the Year. The award recognizes middle 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.

Crystal England has been an active member of the Illinois Principals Association for nine years, currently serving as the Kishwaukee region secretary and has served in education for twenty-six years. She has been a state and national presenter on community mentoring programs, diversity, character education, police-school partnerships, school violence and safety, and more. Within the community, Crystal is an active member of the Light of Christ Church in Algonquin.

“Like all administrators, I wear many hats,” said England. “My passion as an educator has always been to work with students who face challenges...our students are often disenfranchised and marginalized, and the joy I have in coming to work each day is knowing that in our work as a school, we make a positive impact on our students and our community.”

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

Horace Mann -- the largest national multiline insurance company focusing on educators' financial needs – provides auto and homeowners insurance, retirement annuities, life insurance and other financial solutions. “*Founded by Educators for Educators*” in 1945, the company is headquartered in Springfield, Ill. Visit [www.horacemann.com](http://www.horacemann.com) for more information.

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](http://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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