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Organization: Illinois Principals Association

Contact: Jason E. Leahy, Executive Director

Phone: 217-525-1383

Email: [jason@ilprincipals.org](file:///C%3A/Users/alison/AppData/Local/Microsoft/USERS/Lynne/Awards%202009/jason%40ilprincipals.org)

**For Immediate Release**

**Horace Mann and Illinois Principals Association Announce 2018 Illinois Elementary School Principal of the Year**

Horace Mann and the Illinois Principals Association are pleased to announce that Gloria Trejo, principal at Pioneer Elementary School in West Chicago, IL, has been named the 2018 Illinois Elementary School Principal of the Year. The award recognizes elementary 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.

Gloria Trejo has been a member of the Illinois Principals Association for ten years. She is also active with the national Association of Latino Administrators, Illinois Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents as a board member (2015-2017) and was named 2017 ALAS Latino Administrator of the Year. During her tenure as a school leader, Ms. Trejo has presented at educational conferences on the topics of student achievement and engagement, bilingual education, and dual language programs. Trejo has also worked directly with Dr. Jose Enriquez, national founder of "Latinos in Action" (Utah), to develop the student leadership organization into Leman Middle School. "Latinos in Action", is a program that operates as a year-long course taught by a highly qualified teacher at the middle school with the goal of empowering Latino youth to lead and strengthen their communities through college and career readiness.

"I truly believe that Gloria is a great representative of all the wonderful principals that we have in our state," said Dr. Charles Johns, Superintendent of West Chicago Elementary District 33. "She is committed to the success of her school and community and builds the relationship that are needed to achieve those results. Our district and state have already grown from her passion, her insights, skill and vast knowledge."

The Elementary School Principal of the Year winner was selected from a pool of region nominees provided by the 21 Regions of the Illinois Principals Association. Gloria Trejo will be recognized at the IPA’s annual Education Leaders Fall Conference in October 2018 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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