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Contact: Jason E. Leahy, Executive Director, Illinois Principals Association

Phone: 217-525-1383

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

**For Immediate Release**

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

Horace Mann and the Illinois Principals Association are pleased to announce that Paul Kelly, principal of Elk Grove High School, has been named the 2018 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.

Paul Kelly has been an active member of the Illinois Principals Association for five years and currently serves as Region Director for the North Cook Region of the IPA and as a member of the State Superintendent's Principal Advisory Council, IPA Legislative Committee, and delegate to IPA Congress. During his career, Kelly has been active in local and national educational activities such as the Mid-Suburban League Board of Control, DuPage Regional Office of Education High School Leader Partnership, Midwest Principals Center Advisory Board, "North Cook Nation" Roundtable, Association of School Administrators (AASA), Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), and the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS).

Kelly has also been active in the local community serving on the Board of Directors for the Kenneth Young Center in Elk Grove Village, Board of Directors for the Elk Grove Village Chamber of Commerce, and Rotary Club of Elk Grove Village.

"My passion is rolling my sleeves up and doing this critical work alongside those who have devoted their lives to service," said Kelly. "I accept the nomination of my peers in the North Cook Region not as an individual, but on behalf of the entire Elk Grove High School staff, student body, and community. Collectively, we are honored to serve in the interest of future generations. Collective efficacy is the only way we can succeed, and I love that I get to work toward it every single day."

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. Kelly 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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