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**For Immediate Release**

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

Horace Mann and the Illinois Principals Association are pleased to announce that Andy Anderson, principal of Conrady Junior High School of Hickory Hills, has been named the 2018 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.

Andy Anderson has been active in the Illinois Principals Association for eight years and has participated in the IPA Principal for a Day program by hosting local legislators, served on the IPA Awards for Excellence Committee, and attended South Cook region meetings. Anderson is also involved in the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), the National Title I Association, and National Blue Ribbon Schools.

With Mr. Anderson’s leadership, Conrady Junior High School was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2017 and a National Title I Distinguished School Award in 2014. Mr. Anderson has led academic achievement in his school from the lowest performing school in the district to the highest-performing school, developed innovative hybrid-model master schedules, led a three-year multi-million-dollar renovation project, achieved highest level of Annual Yearly Progress in the school’s history, and created new student recognition programs such as Principal’s Breakfast and “Parade of Champions.”

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. Andy Anderson 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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