**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Illinois Principals Association Names**

**2018 John Ourth & Dr. Fred Singleton Professional Development Scholarship Recipients**

**Springfield, IL** – Victoria Norton, principal at Martinsville Elementary School in Martinsville, IL and Jonathan Field, principal at the Sangamon Valley High School in Niantic, IL, have received the 2018 John Ourth and Dr. Fred Singleton Professional Development Scholarships sponsored by the Illinois Principals Association.

Victoria Norton has served as principal at Martinsville Elementary School since 2001. During this time, she has been recognized as Wabash Valley Elementary Principal of the Year in 2012 and was recognized with the “Education is Key” Award from Regional Office of Education #11 in 2006. Norton previously taught Drama, Language Arts, English, Speech Communication, and Mass Media in the Martinsville CUSD C-3 District.

As principal, Norton believes her role as an administrator includes shaping a vision of academic success for all students, cultivating leadership in others, and managing people, data and processes to foster school improvement. “Since becoming principal in 2001, I have used these principles to guide my leadership of Martinsville Elementary. I love and respect each child that comes through the doors and work to ensure that the people I work with have the same philosophy.”

Jonathan Field has served as principal at Sangamon Valley High School since 2015. Field’s previous administrative roles include Principal and Curriculum Director at Sangamon Valley Middle School. Field previously taught Special Education at SASED Central School in Springfield, IL, Virden Middle School in Virden, IL, Pleasant Plains Middle School in Farmingdale, IL, and SASED/Riverton Middle School in Riverton, IL.

“The principalship is more than just a job, it is a calling,” said Field. “It is not for the faint of heart but can offer so much satisfaction. While most days are not easy, each offers an opportunity to learn something new, find a solution to a problem, or help someone overcome an obstacle. I love being a principal and finding the daily opportunities to help people and have a positive impact on students, teachers, and families.”

The John Ourth & Dr. Fred Singleton Professional Development Scholarships were established in 2007 to recognize the contributions of John Ourth and Dr. Fred Singleton, former Field Directors for the Illinois Principals Association. The scholarship provides funding to assist individuals in the pursuit of graduate study, attendance at national conferences, and attendance at other relevant professional development to further the capacities of school administrators to be instructional leaders. Two $1,000 scholarships are awarded each year. Mr. Ourth passed away shortly after the creation of the scholarship on December 10, 2007. Dr. Singleton retired in 2014 after 50 years of service in education.

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

The Illinois Principals Association is a leadership organization which serves over 5,300 educational leaders throughout the state of Illinois and whose mission to develop, support, and advocate for innovative educational leaders. The John Ourth & Dr. Fred Singleton Professional Development Scholarship is supported by funds provided by the Illinois Principals Association Foundation.

For more information about the IPA, please visit [www.ilprincipals.org](http://www.ilprincipals.org).

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