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For Immediate Release

Horace Mann and Illinois Principals Association Announce 2019 Illinois Assistant Principal of the Year

Horace Mann and the Illinois Principals Association are pleased to announce that Doug Owens, Assistant Principal of Tri-C Elementary School, Carterville, has been named the 2019 Illinois Assistant Principal of the Year. The award recognizes Assistant 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.

Doug Owens has served as assistant principal of Tri-C Elementary School for the past four years and has been an active member of the Illinois Principals Association for four years. Through the association, Owens has collaborated with regional assistant principals for the 2018 AP Summit in Effingham, attended the IPA Educational Leaders Fall Conference, and coordinated EdCamps and monthly meetings with other local school administrators. Owens's education career includes experience as a Technology Coach, Professional Learning Community (PLC) Team Leader, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Building Coach, STEM Coordinator, and 4th and 5th grade teacher at Carterville Intermediate School.

"My commitment to the profession of educational leadership can be seen in the work that I do each day with our students, teachers, and staff," said Owens. "I strive to stay current on educational practices and understand meeting the needs of the whole child. This committed focus to educational leadership has benefited many students in our district. Throughout the day you will rarely see me in my office; instead I spend my days in hallways, classrooms, playground and the lunchroom serving the students, teachers and staff members of our school. Working in a small district has allowed me to experience many different aspects of these critical competencies and I'm grateful for the opportunity to grow in each one of these areas."

"Mr. Owens cares deeply for others and passionately for his students," said Keith Liddell, Superintendent of Carterville Unit 5 School District. "Never afraid to stand up for what is right, Mr. Owens is careful and sensitive in sharing critical information to individuals in manner that demonstrates respect, love, and authority. His deep passion for improving the education for all is prevalent throughout his life as he hungers for professional development, achieving a personal goal to read over four professional books a month throughout 2018. This thirst for knowledge is rooted in his quest to be the best educational administrator that he can be for his students and his teachers."

The Assistant Principal of the Year winner was selected from a pool of region nominees provided by the 21 Regions of the Illinois Principals Association. Doug Owens will be recognized at the IPA's annual Education Leaders Fall Conference in October 2019.

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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. Visit <http://www.ilprincipals.org/about-ipa/awards> for more information about the IPA Principal of the Year Awards Program.

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