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

Phone: 217-525-1383

Email: jason@ilprincipals.org

For Immediate Release

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

Horace Mann and the Illinois Principals Association are pleased to announce that Amy Jo Mascall, principal of Streator Township High School, has been named the 2019 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.

Amy Jo Mascall has served as principal of Streator Township High School and has been an active member of the Illinois Principals Association for twelve years. For each of those twelve years, Mascall has planned and facilitated the John Ourth Student Recognition Breakfast for the Starved Rock Region of the Illinois Principals Association. The annual event hosts over 100 students and over 400 guests at Streator Township High School. During her career as an educator, Mascall has previously served as Curriculum Coordinator and Department Chair at Streator Township High School. As principal, she has mentored teachers seeking advanced degrees in educational administration, served as secretary for the Interstate 8 Conference, served on the IHSA Sportsmanship Committee, and has presented professional development workshops through the Illinois Principals Association, Raising Student Achievement Conference, and the IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference.

Mascall has also been active in the local community as a founding member of the Streator Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Opioid Abuse Prevention subcommittee of the OSF Hospital Live Well steering committee, and as a volunteer at local theater Engle Lane, which provides opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to participate in Broadway productions.

After recognizing that Streator's free breakfast and lunch programs still left gaps in some students' ability to be food secure, Mascall created the Bulldog Pantry at Streator Township High School. Mascall solicited donations from faculty, staff, local unions, community organizations, and local businesses to provide food and personal care items to any student and their family members for weekends and holidays. Board of Education member James Parr described the effort as "an example of our people – our school – taking care of its own...the community helping itself."

"First and foremost, a principal has to be an empathetic human being," said Mascall. "One of my strongest attributes is truly believing that we are all a part of the Bulldog community," said Mascall. "In a community, we all work to ensure basic needs are met. We support each other during trying times, share our stories, and fight for each other. I began the Bulldog Pantry to ensure every student's basic needs are met in a non-threatening environment."

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. Mrs. Mascall 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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