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**For Immediate Release**

## **Illinois Principals Association Announces 2019 John Ourth & Dr. Fred Singleton Professional Development Scholarship Recipients**

Eric Detweiler, principal at Frederick School, Grayslake, and Clayton Theisinger, principal at Putnam County High School, Granville, have received the 2019 John Ourth and Dr. Fred Singleton Professional Development Scholarships sponsored by the Illinois Principals Association. Scholarship grants 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.

Eric Detweiler has served as principal at Frederick School since 2002. During this time, he has served as Lake Region State Director and a member of the Illinois Principals Association Board of Directors, Lake Region Treasurer, and Lake Region Membership Chair. Detweiler's educational career includes experience as an associate/assistant principal, 7<sup>th</sup> grade life science, reading and math teacher, basketball coach, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher. Detweiler plans to utilize the scholarship to attend national conferences to enhance his leadership capabilities and help other educators with whom he comes in contact.

As principal, Detweiler believes that effective instructional leaders must have connections with those whom they interact. "I have been an administrator in my district for 25 years and have used that time to create deep connections with those groups. Then using these connections to help everyone grow as I grow. This helps make a strong community and school focused on the education of all students."

Clayton Theisinger has served as principal at Putnam County High School since 2016. Previously, Theisinger served as Director of Teaching and Learning and Special Education teacher at LaSalle-Peru Township High School. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in educational leadership from the University of Nebraska.

"Clayton demonstrates the skill set and commitment necessary for continued success as a high school principal," said Carl Carlson, Superintendent of Putnam County Schools. "He is extremely studious, focused, and seeks resources as needed. I believe he is an outstanding candidate for this tremendous scholarship opportunity."

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.

Detweiler and Theisinger will be recognized in October at a special ceremony during the IPA Education Leaders Fall Conference.

The Illinois Principals Association is a leadership organization which serves over 5,200 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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