

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 6, 2019

Illinois Principals Association Names David Deets as 2019 Herman Graves Award Recipient

Springfield, IL – David Deets, superintendent of Harmony-Emge School District 175, Belleville, IL has received the 2019 Herman Graves Award from the Illinois Principals Association.

The Herman Graves Award was established in 1991 to recognize outstanding service to IPA. Herman Graves was selected as the first honoree and the award was established because of the intrinsic contributions he made to the Association and his enthusiasm for the profession. Regional winners are chosen from the 21 regional areas of the Illinois Principals Association. From these elite administrators, a state winner is chosen by a committee comprised of IPA Past Presidents.

“Dave Deets epitomizes what it means to be a learning leader who effectively leads his learning organization,” said Dr. Jason Leahy, Illinois Principals Association Executive Director. “Beyond his work in his school, Mr. Deets has committed himself to positively impacting the education profession and schools across the state through his significant involvement in the Illinois Principals Association. At the IPA, we are grateful for his passion and commitment to help school leaders throughout Illinois do what is best for their students.”

David Deets has been a member of the Illinois Principals Association since 2008. During this time, Deets has served on the Illinois Principals Association Board of Directors as State Director for the Southwestern Region (Jersey, Madison, St. Clair, Monroe, and Randolph counties). He previously served on the Southwestern Region board as Board Secretary and Region Director. Deets has also served at the state level as a representative to State Superintendent’s Principal Advisory, ISBE ESSA Indicators of Success, and Early Childhood Readiness committees.

Deets has been recognized by his peers and fellow regional administrators through selection as the Southwestern Region Reaching Out and Building Bridges Award winner in 2017 for his partnership with St. Matthew United Methodist Church, Belleville, to provide character education programming and tutoring to students at Ellis Elementary in 2017. He was also previously named Southwestern Region Elementary Principal of the Year in 2013.

Deets began his career in education in 2003 as a seventh and eighth grade social studies teacher at Fulton Jr. High School in O’Fallon, IL. His first administrative role was as principal of Marissa Elementary School, in Marissa, IL in 2008. Deets later served as principal of Ellis Elementary School, Emge Jr. High School, and Harmony Intermediate School, all in Belleville, and presently serves as superintendent of Harmony-Emge School District 175. Through his leadership, Marissa Elementary School earned recognition as an ISBE Spotlight School in 2009, Ellis Elementary School was recognized with the ISBE Academic Improvement Award in 2013, and Harmony-Emge School District 175 was named as an ISBE District of Distinction in 2014.

Deets resides in Glen Carbon, Illinois with his wife Ashleigh, a math intervention teacher at Illini Elementary School in Fairview Heights, and sons Tyler, Jack, and Luke. He received his Superintendent Endorsement from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Master's in Educational Leadership from McKendree College, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and attended Illinois Wesleyan University as a student-athlete in basketball and tennis.

The Illinois Principals Association is a leadership organization which serves over 5,700 educational leaders throughout the state of Illinois and whose mission is to develop, support, and advocate for innovative educational leaders. For more information about the IPA, please visit www.ilprincipals.org.

The Herman Graves Award is sponsored by Horace Mann Companies of Springfield, IL.

###