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

Phone: 217-525-1383

Email: [jason@ilprincipals.org](mailto:jason@ilprincipals.org)

**For Immediate Release**

## **Illinois Principals Association Announces 2020 John Ourth & Dr. Fred Singleton Professional Development Scholarship Recipients**

*Springfield, IL* – Jared Ellison, Principal of Westville Jr. High School, Westville, and Jonathan Field, Principal of Sangamon Valley High School, Riverton, have received the 2020 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.

Jared Ellison has served as principal of Westville Junior High School since 2011. Ellison currently serves on the IPA Board of Directors as State Director for the Illini Region of the Illinois Principals Association. He has been recognized by his peers as the 2019 Illinois Middle School Principal of the Year, received the Golden Ruler Award of Excellence by the Vermillion County Regional Office of Education #54, and has served as a speaker and facilitator for Illinois Principals Association professional development activities. Ellison is currently completing coursework on an Educational Doctorate degree through Illinois State University and is looking forward to continual growth on this educational journey.

As principal, Ellison believes that effective instructional leaders must be able to provide leadership and have a vision. “Leadership starts with showing people that you are there for them and that you will do whatever you can for them. I truly care about people. Education is about interactions and relationships. Every day I look forward to working with students and adults, with the understanding that the needs of students, teachers, and parents will provide the direction of your day and your work.”

Jonathan Field has served as principal at Sangamon Valley High School since 2015. Field is active in the Illinois Principals Association as Treasurer of the Abe Lincoln region and has served as a presenter for IPA professional development opportunities on trauma-informed practices in schools. He was previously recognized by his peers with the Abe Lincoln Region Reaching Out & Building Bridges Award for a partnership with the Education Coalition of Macon County, and as nominee for Illinois High School Principal of the Year. Field is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in educational leadership from the Saint Louis University.

“Being involved in educational leadership is more than just a job or an opportunity to impact teachers and students...the principalship is a calling,” said Field. “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 the daily opportunities it provides 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. 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.

Ellison and Field will be recognized in October at a special ceremony during the IPA Education Leaders Annual Conference.

The Illinois Principals Association is a leadership organization which serves over 5,800 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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