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For Immediate Release

Horace Mann and Illinois Principals Association Announce 2021 Illinois Elementary School Principal of the Year

Horace Mann and the Illinois Principals Association are pleased to announce that Jennifer Lindsay, principal of Rogers Elementary School, North Pekin, has been named the 2021 Illinois Elementary School Principal of the Year. The award recognizes elementary 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
- 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
- Involves the community in the life of the school and uses community resources for students.

Jennifer Lindsay has served as principal of Rogers Elementary School as well as District 102 Special Education Coordinator for the past 6 years and has been an active member of the Illinois Principals Association since becoming a principal in 2014. Lindsay currently serves the Illinois Principals Association as Central Illinois Valley (CIV) Region Membership Chair and member of the Legislative Committee. She has also been active within the IPA as planner of the annual Region Student Recognition Breakfast.

Lindsay is also involved with mentoring a newly hired principal in the district as well as providing supervision for principal candidates completing the internship process. She says, "In each of these scenarios, it has been my goal to help these school leaders identify their own unique contributions they can use to grow those in their care. So often aspiring leaders think that leadership is found in the 'big' things, when in all actuality leaders are often most effective because of the day to day service to those in their charge."

"Principals must have the ability to inspire and move people towards success," said Lindsay. "This often means turning the spot light on others and involves quietly leading those we serve by encouraging them to learn, grow and succeed. Principals rally communities, teachers and students by creating a school culture where people take pride and ownership in their success."

"Mrs. Lindsay's positive impact on education can be seen by the changes she has led at Rogers Elementary School. Since beginning her principalship at Rogers Elementary, she has effectively lead new curriculum adoption and change of mindset for teaching. She also has lead in shifting the mindset to the individual child and their needs and not how the curriculum needs to follow a specific pattern for teaching. Rtl and data dissemination are now regular practice at Rogers Elementary School," said Jennifer Dietrich, principal of Marquette Elementary School also in District 102. "Under Mrs. Lindsay's leadership, Rogers Elementary School has been recognized as an Exemplary School for the past two years. Her high standards for staff and students have driven positive change on education."

The Elementary School Principal of the Year winner was selected from a pool of region nominees provided by the 21 Regions of the Illinois Principals Association. Lindsay will be recognized at the IPA's annual Education Leaders Annual Conference in October 2021.

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