A Message from Regional Superintendent
Robert A. Daiber, Ed.D.

For ten years I have had the privilege to serve as Regional Superintendent of Schools in Madison County. Each year as I am out in the schools, I witness the great work that is taking place. Recently, the regional office in conjunction with the Workforce Investment Board sponsored career fairs at Roxana High School and Triad Middle School. Presenters from the private sector complimented the schools on the attentiveness of the students. Both events were a big success and much was gained by the students. The ROE looks forward to continuing to provide future opportunities for students and teachers.

On April 29, the Regional Office of Education recognized three hundred and thirty young authors. These young authors exemplify creative writers. I continue to encourage students to enjoy the art of writing as a means to share thoughts and ideas through written expression. I would like to thank all the teachers who encourage this project in their classrooms.

Another group of students were recognized on May 9 at the Madison County Earth Flag Celebration. Congratulations to all the winners of the Trashformations Competition and school-wide recognition. Silver Creek Elementary School was this year’s recipient of the Green School of the Year Award. I would like to commend Eve Drueke, Green Schools Coordinator, on an outstanding program. My compliments as well to all the teachers and students who participated at the event.

As summer begins in a few weeks, the ROE will continue numerous professional development opportunities. I encourage you to review the agenda for the Directions Conference June 13-14, which will be held at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville (see www.directionsconference.com). This is an opportunity to see leaders in education right here in your area.

Children of Madison County employees visit the Regional Office of Education on Take Your Child to Work Day in April.

The conference is very affordable and offers great professional development. Also, this summer the ROE will be hosting two summer camps for kids. The STEM camp will take place June 19-23. This camp is now in its third year and continues to grow in popularity. The ROE will host its first Ag Camp July 17-21. This experience will provide all participants with numerous farm visits and activities for a week-long experience. Please visit the ROE website to learn more about the summer programs that are being offered.

We have so much to do as educators and only so much time to do it. Before we know it, our career has passed us by and it is time to retire. Congratulations to all retirees featured in this edition of Educational Benchmark! Your dedication and service is what makes Madison County schools excel. My best to everyone as we adjourn this school year. Thank you for your service.

Val Dickinson

Val Dickinson has served the students of Madison County for 34 years. In her early years, she worked in the residential facility where 9 boys resided and attended the ETC program. She would work half of her day in one location, then follow the students and staff back to the group home and assist with various elements associated with residential care. She spent many extra hours assisting in whatever the need might have been, as there were many. She wore many more hats than just “teacher” while serving in this capacity. Her ability to possess a multitude of qualities allowed her to thrive in this environment. She blends creativity, thoughtfulness, kindness, and empathy into a mix that has benefited all of her students throughout the years.

One thing that you can readily see from Val is her passion for educating anyone she comes into contact with (including her work as a mentor to fellow staff members). With her, there is no “halfway.” Everyone who has come into contact with her comes out as a better person for it; that is a quality that very few possess and even fewer can use as well as she does.
Congratulations to the 2017 Retirees

Thank you for your years of dedicated service to the students of Madison County!

Roxana
Don Bechtoldt - 18 Years Language Arts/Spanish
Roxana H.S.
Stan Hunt - 30 Years P.E. Teacher
Central Intermediate
Daria Knopf - 23 Years Language Arts
Roxana Senior High
Anette Lewis - 19 Years Pre-K South Primary
Melissa Ray - 16 Years Language Arts
Roxana Senior High
Triad
Carla Dineen - 21 Years Secretary
Triad Middle School
David DeVries - 9 Years Bus Driver
Triad District
Tammy Frey - 26 Years Teacher
Triad Middle
Bonnie Gitsenke - 19 Years Speech Language Path.
St. Jacob Elementary
Cristie Lewis - 24 Years Teacher
C.A. Henning Elementary
Sharon Logan - 20 Years Teacher
Marine Elementary School
Lauren Mahan - 20 Years Paraprofessional
C.A. Henning Elementary
Karen Preuter - 10 Years Bus Driver
Triad District
Marla Seip - 15 Years Paraprofessional
C.A. Henning Elementary
Highland
Susan Bentley - 20 Years Grade 6 Teacher
Highland Middle
Timothy Brooks - 25 Years Custodian
Grantfork Elementary
Edward Crager - 28 Years Custodian
Highland High School
Karen Duckworth - 18 Years School Nurse
Highland High School
Sheila Gruender - 30 Years Grade 6 Teacher
Highland Middle
James McCaw - 26 Years Custodian
Highland High
Lori Ruebhausen - 35 Years Choral Director
Highland High School
Theresa Tucker - 28 Yrs. P.E. Teacher
Highland Middle
Linda Watts - 23 Years Kindergarten Teacher
Highland Primary
Darlene Zobrist - 8 Years Custodian
Highland Primary
Edwardsville
Kaye Corbin - 18 Years Assistant
Edwardsville High
John Cox - 10 Years School Safety Officer
Nelson Elementary
Frances Floeter - 28 Years Assistant
Columbus Elementary
Deborah Grigalits - 10 Years Assistant
Goshen Elementary
Allan Hagen - 15 Years Teacher
Edwardsville High
Pam Harmon - 21 Years School Nurse
Edwardsville High
Roxanne Howald - 10 Years COTA District 7
Judith Kessman - 12 Yrs. Assistant
Lincoln Middle
Tom Manis - 21 Years Head Custodian
Edwardsville High
Sally McAulchan - 27 Years Special Ed. Teacher
Columbus Elementary
Joe McNamara - 19 Yrs. Assoc. Principal
Edwardsville High
Kathryn Motley - 32 Yrs. Performing Arts Teacher
Edwardsville High
Gary Nagel - 17 Years Custodian
Woodland Elementary
Linda Nota-Eubinger - 44 Years P.E. Teacher
Wooden Elementary
Cliff Parker - 17 Years Teacher
Edwardsville High
Martha Richey - 26 Years Principal
Albert Cassens Elem.
Paul Santoro - 28 Years Social Worker
Edwardsville High South
Debra Turner - 11 Years Assistant
Woodland Elementary
Addie Washington - 20 Yrs. Art Teacher
Lincoln Middle
Sharon Winterbottom - 23 Years Assistant
Woodland Elementary
Bethalto
JoEllen Brady - 21 Years Bus Driver
District
Phyllis Coffman - 31 Yrs. Secretary
Civic Memorial High
Sue Lingle - 23 Years Teacher Aide
Bethalto East Primary
Karen Martin - 18 Years Nurse
Civic Memorial High
Mary Millitello - 23 Years Teacher Aide
Meadowbrook Internm.
Vicky Newberry - 28 Yrs. Teacher
Civic Memorial High
Sharol Nolte - 31 Years Custodian
Civic Memorial High
Granite City
Gregory S. Adams - 31 Years Teamster
District
Susan M. Anderson - 28 Years Executive Secretary
Human Resources District
Karen M. Conrad - 20 Years Paraprofessional
Coolidge Junior High
Teddy D. Geggus - 23 Years Painter
District
Allen W. Harris - 32 Yrs. Social Studies
Woodard Elementary
John Niebur (deceased) - 22 Years P.E. Teacher
Wilson Elementary
Karen Schwedeman - 29 Years Title I Teacher
Griggsey Intermediate
Collinsville
Debbie Arney - 15 Years Educational Assistant
Caseyville Elementary
Cathy Carpenter - 45 Years Teacher
Renfro Elementary
Deborah Colyott - 23 Yrs. Teacher
Dorris Intermediate School
Lee Curtis - 32 Years Teacher
Webster Elementary
Jeanette Deppe - 26 Yrs. Educational Assistant
Kreitner Elementary
Nancy Doyle - 27 Years Teacher
Kreitner Elementary
Edward Ferkel - 35 Years Custodian
Caseyville Elementary
Linda Held - 31 Years Teacher
Kreitner Elementary
Mark Jiles - 23 Years Teacher
Collinsville High
Diane Lafikes - 20 Years Teacher
Collinsville Middle
Jan Mattea - 20 Years Teacher
Dorris Intermediate School
Carol McFall - 25 Years Teacher
Kreitner Elementary
Doris McFall - 38 Years Teacher
Jefferson Elementary
Melinda Myers - 22 Years Teacher
Dorris Intermediate
Kathleen Ritchie - 32 Yrs. Special Ed. Coordinator
Hollywood Heights Alternative School
Janet Sprenger - 22 Yrs. Title I Secretary
District
Aurora Tallerico - 8 Years Speech Language Path.
Kreitner Elementary
Robert Wenzel - 37 Years Custodian
Collinsville High
Alton
Gary Banks - 36 Years Music Teacher
East Elementary
Vicky Brandon - 26 Years Teacher Assistant
North Elementary
Marjorie Crull - 24 Years Secretary
Lewis & Clark Elementary
Jo Hampshire - 28 Years Secretary
Gilson Brown Elementary
Timothy Jarden - 32 Yrs. Music Teacher
Alton Middle
Mark Kennedy - 28 Years Art Teacher
Alton Middle
Teresa Kennedy - 20 Yrs. HealthDrivers Ed.
Alton High
Judith Kress - 30 Years Clerk
District
Sandy Neal - 18 Years Special Ed. Clerk
District
David Owens - 32 Years Maintenance District
Vicki Reeves - 24 Years Language Arts Teacher
Alton Middle
Sandra Stozze - 20 Years Teacher Assistant
North Elementary
Madison
Dennis Coy - 16 Years Teacher
Madison Senior High
Vandelea Lee - 24 Years Teacher
Bernard Long Elementary
Susan Parr - 16 Years Teacher
Madison Junior High
Robert Smith - 19 Years Custodian
Bernard Long Elementary
Donald Whitecotton - 33 Years Utility Custodian
District
Yolanda Williams - 30 Years Teacher
Bernard Long Elementary
EAWR
Richard Allshouse - 28 Years Custodian
EAWR High
Susan Ledford - 32 Years English Teacher
EAWR High
David Sobol - 26 Years Industrial Arts
EAWR High
Wood River-Hartford
Renee Koprivica - 23 Yrs. Special Ed. Teacher
Lewis & Clark Elem./Lewis & Clark Jr. High
Lisa Kaman-Ammon - 17 Years Teacher
Lewis & Clark Elementary
Ss. Peter and Paul
Janet Christian - 18 Yrs. Technology Teacher
Ss. Peter & Paul
St. John Neumann Catholic School
Kathy Parker - 23 Years 1st Grade Teacher
St. John Neumann Catholic School
See Retirees, page 3
Madison County Educators Achieve Honors

Phyllis Coffman  
Bethalto  
Those Who Excel

Melinda Fensterman  
Alton  
Those Who Excel

Kelly Gardner  
EAMR  
Emerson Excellence in Teaching

Edmond Gray  
Alton  
Those Who Excel

Kathryn Griffin  
Edwardsville  
Those Who Excel

Andrea Grotelundt  
Edwardsville  
Those Who Excel

Christopher Helting  
Roxana  
Emerson Excellence in Teaching

Elaine Kane  
Alton  
Those Who Excel

Sharon Logan  
Triad  
Emerson Excellence in Teaching

Lesley Roderick  
Edwardsville  
Those Who Excel

Lori Ruebhausen  
Highland  
Emerson Excellence in Teaching

Todd Schultz  
Columbia  
Those Who Excel

Tom Siegel  
Collinsville  
Those Who Excel

Clayton Smith  
Collinsville  
Those Who Excel

Kevin Stirnemann  
Collinsville  
Those Who Excel

Chris Turner  
Alton  
Those Who Excel

Lynda Willings  
Alton  
Boys & Girls Club Teacher of the Year

Catherine Wright  
Edwardsville  
Those Who Excel

Sandra West  
Alton  
100 Black Men Volunteer of the Year

Award Winners Not Pictured

Julie Basler  
Alton  
Those Who Excel

Cathy Stolze  
Alton  
Those Who Excel

Sharolyn Hartman  
Alton  
Those Who Excel

Katherine Walters  
Alton  
Those Who Excel

Lisa Lovett  
Alton  
100 Black Men Education Award

Letoya Ware  
Alton  
Those Who Excel

Cheryl McCormick  
Alton  
Those Who Excel

Sandra West  
Alton  
100 Black Men Volunteer of the Year

Workshops

For details and to register for upcoming workshops please visit our website at www.roe41.org (select workshops/events tab)

Retirees, from page 2

Region III Special Education Cooperative

Jan Zinkan - 26 Years  
Aide

Barb Brenner - 27 Years  
Aide

Diane Droeger - 35 Years  
Occupational Therapy

Sheila Severs - 35 Years  
DHH Teacher

Valerie Dickinson - 34 Years  
Special Education Teacher

43RD ANNUAL REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION TEACHER APPRECIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Wednesday, June 7th, 2017

Spencer T. Olin Golf Course  
Registration: 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. shotgun start

4-person scramble  
$50 per player ($200 per team)

Paid entries will receive:

• One re-play card for a free round of golf Monday-Thursday at Spencer T. Olin
• Lunch provided and scored meal at the end of the tournament
• Refreshments on the course
• Mulligans and skins-optinal

To help us plan properly, please pre-register by mailing in your registration form and check payable to ROE #41, and mail to 117 N. Main St., Ste. 410, Edwardsville, IL 62025. For more information please call Kady Simon at 296-4638, email kady.simon@roe41.org. Please return registration form with fee by May 31st, 2017.
Public History (HIST 470)
3 hours graduate credit from SIUe
July 3 – August 4 2017

This online section of Public History (HIST 470) is available only to local educators. Public History (HIST 470) will teach the skills of public history and give participants the opportunity to explore topics of local interest and importance. Participants will have the option to contribute their work to Madison Historical: The Online Encyclopedia and Digital Archive of Madison County.

Jeffrey Manuel and Jason Stacy of the SIUe history department will teach the techniques of public history, oral history, and digital archiving and the ways in which these methods can be used in lesson plans aligned with the Illinois social science standards.

There are limited scholarships available for free tuition. Contact Jason Stacy at jstacy@siue.edu or 618-650-2414.

Congratulations to the 330 students who were honored at this year’s Madison County Young Authors Conference. K-8 students competed in their local schools. School winners were then invited to attend the conference on Saturday, April 29, 2017. Each student was presented a certificate by Asst. Regional Superintendent Andrew Reinking. Storyteller Obi William King gave an entertaining presentation to the students and their families. Students met in grade level groups to share their books with their peers and do fun activities related to writing and reading.

Congratulations to Retiring Administrators

Mrs. Martha Richey is retiring from her position as an Elementary Principal at Albert Cassens Elementary School. She has completed twenty-six years of service with the Edwardsville School District and has been in education for thirty-two years. Mrs. Richey also served as Assistant Principal at Lincoln Middle School. She began her career with Edwardsville, teaching elementary and middle school. Prior to being hired by the Edwardsville School District she taught at Lewis & Clark and Eunice Smith in Alton. Mrs. Richey graduated in 1979 with a BS in Health Education from Eastern Illinois University. She received her Master’s in Education in 1988 from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Mrs. Richey’s retirement plans are to spend more time with her family and to travel. She is looking forward to having time to explore her options for work and for play! She is going to miss the life, laughter, and mayhem that happen in a large school community. It’s been an amazing journey with teachers and support staff who put their hearts and souls into their jobs.

Mr. Joseph McNamara is retiring from his position as Associate Principal at Edwardsville High School. He has completed nineteen years of service with the Edwardsville School District and has been in education for thirty-seven years. Mr. McNamara also served as Assistant Principal at the old Edwardsville High School, now known as Lincoln Middle School. Prior to being hired by the Edwardsville School District, he taught at Mater Dei High School in Breese, was an Assistant Principal at Mater Dei High School in Breese, and was a Principal at Lebanon High School in Lebanon. Mr. McNamara graduated in 1979 with a BA in Spanish from Knox College and studied in Barcelona, Spain. He received his Masters in Education in 1989 from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Mr. McNamara plans to spend more time with his family and to do a lot of traveling, especially going back to Spain. He will do some writing and will most likely get a part-time job. He is going to miss working with such talented and dedicated assistant principals, guidance counselors, and teachers. And most of all, he is going to miss the students, who are so intelligent, so talented, so funny, and so kind.

June 13-14, 2017
Gateway Convention Center
Collinsville, IL

Keynote Speakers:
Dr. Anthony Muhammed
Dr. Mike Schmoker
Dr. Robert J. Marzano
Grace Dearborn

More information & registration at www.directionsconference.com