



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2007

District 64 Community Finance Committee Leaders Win Top State Education Award

Phil Eichman, Craig Elderkin and Diana Stapleton have been named winners of the Award of Excellence, the top honor, in the 2007 "Those Who Excel" award program, according to the Park Ridge-Niles School District 64. The Board of Education praised the winners at its September 24 meeting when the announcement was made.

District 64 nominated the trio for their volunteer work spanning several years as cochairmen of the Community Finance Committee (CFC). The Illinois State Board of Education conducts the annual awards program to recognize and honor persons who make outstanding contributions to education. A selection committee comprised of representatives of statewide education organizations evaluates and scores the nominations.

According to Superintendent Sally Pryor, Mr. Eichman, Mr. Elderkin and Ms. Stapleton were nominated as a team for leading the CFC in its outstanding efforts to provide independent, community-based analysis of District 64's finances. The 35-member CFC is comprised of community members, teachers, administrators, and members of the Board of Education. Mr. Eichman chaired the Financial Structure Subcommittee, Mr. Elderkin chaired the Communications Subcommittee, and Ms. Stapleton chaired the Spend Management Subcommittee.

"The CFC's final reports were so well formulated and highly documented, they formed the basis for the Board of Education's subsequent decision to seek a tax increase referendum in April to maintain quality education and restore the District's financial security," stated Board of Education President Sue Runyon.

In its nomination, District 64 noted that the CFC Subcommittee chairmen had demonstrated excellence in the fulfillment of their duties and in their concern for children, and that their work had a positive effect on the school environment. "The team also showed leadership and inspired others to achieve, and went above and beyond what would be expected to fulfill their duties," Ms. Runyon added.

The awards will be presented at the "Those Who Excel" banquet on Saturday, October 13 in Decatur.

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