

Cindy holds a bachelors degree from Coe College in Physical Education K-12 and Coaching. She also holds a Master's Degree from the University of Iowa in Physical Education with Fitness-Wellness Administration and Testing. She has spent 7 years as a middle school and high school PE teacher and coach in Monticello, 8 years as an Adjunct Physical Education Instructor and Coach at Coe College, 13 years as an Elementary Physical Education teacher at Hiawatha Elementary, and the past 5 years as a middle school physical education and adaptive PE teacher at Harding Middle School in Cedar Rapids.

She has been a member of our association for 3 years, serving as the chair of athletics in 1990 and has been a SHAPE America member for 1 year. She also coordinated Jump Rope for Heart events at Hiawatha Elementary School for 10 years. Her other professional affiliations have included the Iowa State Education Association, Cedar Rapids Education Association, Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, and Eastern Iowa Volleyball Officials Association. In her community she has provided service as a school district volunteer, church volunteer, club volleyball coach, soccer club coach, YMCA Youth Sports Coach, and PTO officer.

Significant achievements during her career have included receiving Honorable Mention for the HO Maxey Humanitarian Award by the Cedar Rapids Community School District in 2002. But, significant achievements are not just awards, it's the time and effort she puts into her teaching of life skills and encouraging all her students to enjoy the learning process by not taking things too seriously and being able to laugh at themselves. Her commitment and passion for adaptive physical education students and all the impressive ways she has designed and delivered lessons for them to feel successful was powerful evidence of what her significant achievements were and far too numerous to share them all here tonight.

It was quite evident that "Cindy is every kid's cheerleader" by attending all IEPs, sending success videos to parents so they can celebrate their child's accomplishments, sharing a student's favorite piece of equipment along with activity modifications for students to encourage families to move and play together. She now launders 5 kids' clothes for them weekly so they can avoid no dress days or any social ramifications. She has contacted personnel in community programs to obtain scholarships and free services for her students whose families are unable to meet financial obligations so that the students could be active in sports activities outside of school.

Cindy stated that if she can treat each and every student, every day in a firm, fair, and friendly manner while encouraging them to do their personal best and cheering them on along the way I think I can help them enjoy PE and movement and help them become active and healthy adults. She really doesn't think she does anything innovative or unique, she just does the fundamental and important things well and she works hard to make sure that every student has a positive experience in PE to encourage lifelong fitness, good social behaviors, and healthy relationships. Her units and lessons provide a wide variety of experiences so students can find something they enjoy to remain active into adulthood. She does this through a variety of teaching methods, small sided games, equipment for every student, and the power of choice. Choice of equipment, choice of activity, choice of level or pace, so everyone feels successful. Students learn to respect and show empathy for one another in her class rather than having the emphasis be on advancing their physical skill levels.

Some of the supporting statements for Cindy's award included: "Although Cindy makes a very challenging teaching assignment look easy, make no mistake, she has taken great pains in her preparation, masterfully differentiating her content, instructional strategies, and equipment variety in anticipation of individual needs." "She has devoted time and energy to construct an environment, schedules, cueing system, and engaging materials to enhance learning for all students." "Cindy is a polished professional who knows her craft and the science behind it."

Please join me in congratulating our 2016 Middle School PE Teacher of the Year, Cindy Hutcheson.