

EAST UNION SUPERINTENDENT TO RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS ANNUAL AWARD

AMES, IA -- Dr. Pam Armstrong-Vogel was chosen by the Iowa State University Educational Administration faculty to receive the annual Jordan Larson award in Educational Administration. Each year the Educational Administration faculty honor the previous year's outstanding graduate in Educational Administration from the College of Human Sciences at Iowa State University.

Dr. Armstrong-Vogel is superintendent of the East Union School District in Des Moines. Armstrong-Vogel's hometown is Grinnell, Iowa. She has worked for Heartland Area Education Agency 11 and in numerous leadership roles for the Woodward-Granger community school district, including director of curriculum and instruction and special programs, acting superintendent, and middle school principal. Armstrong-Vogel spent 10 years teaching special education at Oskaloosa Junior High School in Oskaloosa, Iowa. She is a member and past president of the executive board of the Iowa Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Armstrong-Vogel's dissertation was an intensive case study of how one principal implemented the Iowa Professional Development Model to improve student learning. The Iowa Professional Development Model was initiated state-wide in 2004 by the Iowa Department of Education as a series of steps for leaders to follow. Dr. Vogel's research is the first to describe *how* a practicing principal might do so. Her work also describes how this principal enacts leadership behaviors identified from previous research by Robert Marzano as successful practices by school leaders. Additional findings of her research included recommendations about the structure and responsibilities of the principal's job. For example, although the principal highlighted in her study was very focused on student learning, he was also taxed with a number of non-instructionally-related tasks such as supervision of evening activities or student discipline. While those tasks have traditionally been the role of a school leader, they do not contribute to the leader's primary focus of enhancing student achievement.

The award is in memory of Dr. Jordan Lewis Larson, a long-time school administrator in Iowa, who served as superintendent in Ames in the early 1940s. After moving to the superintendency at Mt. Vernon, NY, Dr. Larson was elected to the Presidency of the American Association of School Administrators and served during 1954 and 1955. This award for excellence is supported by a foundation grant made by Superintendent Larson's daughter-in-law, Collean Larson. The Jordan Larson Award includes a cash prize of \$500 and a commemorative plaque.

Since 1981, the award has included the following winners, many of whom are active in Iowa education:

- 2007 - John Chalstrom
- 2006 - Mary Delagardelle
- 2005 - Nanci Shaw

2004 - Pam Stangeland
2003 - Theron Schutte
2002 - Amanda J. Ross
2001 - Curtis Anthony Cain
2000 - Linda Gray Smith
1999 - Doyle F. Scott
1998 - James R. Scharff
1997 - David J. Wilkerson
1996 - Teri J. Wilson
1995 - Joan B. Wilcox
& Kristin M. Nass
1994 - L. Kay Forsythe
1993 - Greg A. Robinson
1992 - Les M. Omotani
1991 - Linda Turner Fortenberry
1990 - Linda Kay Munger
1989 - Bruce E. Daniels
1988 - Diana Bourisaw
& David W. Peterson
1987 - Marilyn M. Semones
1986 - Barbara Davis Licklider
1985 - David F. Darnell
1984 - Ellen E. Look
& Tim R. Westerberg
1983 - Retia Scott Walker
1982 - Brian L. Gustafson
1981 - Mary Warner Garci

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