



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION,  
HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES

32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

**HOLLIE BETHEL**  
DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI  
**EVENT**

EST. 1988

APRIL 16, 2021



# CREATING A POSITIVE FORCE

On April 19, 1950, the Regents of the University of Omaha approved the formation of the College of Education, now known as the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences (CEHHS). Formal training of teachers had begun years earlier when 26 students started classes at the newly formed University on September 14, 1908. Of 11 students in the first graduating class in 1913, six went on to be teachers.

A Department of Education was formed within the University in 1928, and Irwin A. Hammer was appointed the first Department Chair. Two years later on May 6, 1930, the voters approved the creation of the Municipal University of Omaha.

The first dean of the college, appointed in April of 1950, was Frank H. Gorman. Following Gorman were Paul C. Kennedy, Edward L. Dejnozka, David E. Kapel, Donald A. Myers, Richard B. Flynn, John E. Christensen, John T. Langan, and David F. Conway (Interim Dean). Nancy A. Edick became the first woman dean on July 1, 2009.

The first Distinguished Alumni Luncheon was held on September 30, 1988. Since its inception, over 200 alumni have been honored.

Today, CEHHS has over 22,000 living alumni with a significant number living and working in metropolitan Omaha. The college offers degrees in the areas of Biomechanics, Counseling, Educational Leadership, Health and Kinesiology, Special Education and Communication Disorders, and Teacher Education.

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Our students and alumni serve the community through their work as dedicated practitioners, reflective scholars, and responsible citizens. Your support is essential to our mission and growth. Contact Nicole Massara at [nicole.massara@nufoundation.org](mailto:nicole.massara@nufoundation.org) to learn more about a gift to CEHHS.





## DR. JEFFREY G. KUHR

### Distinguished Service Award

*School of Health & Kinesiology*



Dr. Jeff Kuhr is in his eleventh year as director of Public Health for Mesa County, Colorado, based in Grand Junction. Prior to moving to Colorado, Jeff was the executive director for Three Rivers Public Health, which serves Dodge, Saunders, and Washington Counties in Eastern Nebraska. Hired in 2003 as the agency's founding director, he was one of 16 new local public health agencies established in Nebraska using funds from the state's tobacco settlement annuity.

Jeff is an Ascend Fellow and a PHRASES Fellow, both with the Aspen Institute. He currently serves on the Health Steering Committee for the National Association of County Officials, and is a governor appointee to the Colorado Board of Human Services and the Colorado Early Childhood Leadership Commission. In Grand Junction, Jeff serves on the boards of directors for St. Mary's Regional Medical Center and the Rocky Mountain Health Foundation.

Jeff is an Omaha native; a graduate of Millard South High School and a first-generation college student. He earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Community Health Education from the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), and went on to earn his PhD in Educational Psychology from UNL.

Jeff spent the first seven years of his career working in UNO's student health center. During that time, he met his wife, Sheryl, who also worked at UNO for over 20 years. They've been married for 25 years!



# DR. STUART P. STOFFERAHN

## Distinguished Service Award

*Department of Educational Leadership*

Dr. Stuart P. Stofferahn is the founder and Executive Director of Nebraska Transition College, an organization that empowers individuals with autism and other disabilities to learn, work, and live within our communities.

Stuart completed a master's degree in 2011 and a doctorate in 2017, both in Educational Leadership and both from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2017 after 31 years of combined active duty and reserve service. During this service, he was also a youth director, an elementary music teacher, and an active volunteer, dividing his time with Junior Achievement, Community Action Partnership, and the Homeless Coalition of Lincoln. He and his dog, Buckley are a trained therapy team and have provided unique care for hospice clients for the last six years.

Since 2014, Stuart has been working to build Nebraska Transition College—an organization whose mission is to provide a comprehensive curriculum for individuals with Autism or other disability so that they may find a pathway to independence through employment or post-secondary educational opportunity. He was the 2018 recipient of Leadership Lincoln's Bud Cuca Servant Leader Award, an award presented annually to honor a member of the community who has lived and embodied the ideals of servant leadership by leading from the heart, and using his/her talents, gifts and leadership ability to make a better future for the entire community.

Stuart is also the author of "The Love of a Cold, Wet Nose: Stories of a Hospice Dog," and a speaker through Cold Wet Nose, LLC. Stuart is married to Heather Castle, and they have a Brady Bunch family of three girls and three boys (and two dogs!)







## JANICE FLEGLE

### Distinguished Professional Achievement Award

*Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders*

Retiring in October 2019, Janice Flegle enjoyed a 41-year career at the Munroe Meyer Institute (MMI). When she retired, Janice was a clinical Associate Professor and Director of the MMI Occupational Therapy Department.



Throughout her entire career, Janice was an advocate for educationally-related occupational therapy (OT) services. Early in her career, she worked with Special Education-qualified children in districts across the Omaha Metro area, and for the last 13 years of her career, she co-coordinated a contract to provide educationally-related occupational therapy and physical therapy services to students in the Omaha Public Schools.

Janice received an M.A. in Special Education from the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) in 1986, and was one of Nebraska's first board certified pediatric OT clinical specialists. She later helped develop application content and served on the national review team for the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Board and Specialty Certification application process.

From 1996-2008, Janice coordinated and taught the pediatric courses for the OT program at College of Saint Mary. She taught in the Clarkson College OTA program from 1999-2004, and taught select lectures and labs for the Pediatric Physical Therapy course at UNMC until her retirement.



In 2017, Janice established an innovative and intensive year-long AOTA Pediatric OT Fellowship at MMI that combined mentored experience in provision of school-based services, Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND), and an opportunity to work with hospital-based therapists at Children's Hospital and Medical Center.

# DOUG HAUSERMAN

## Distinguished Professional Achievement Award

### *Department of Counseling*

A native of Auburn, Nebraska, Doug Hauserman began his professional life as a band director, making stops at the Neligh-Oakdale Public School, Elkhorn High School, Omaha North High School before arriving at Westside Community Schools in 2001. In 1998 Doug was Awarded the Jack Snyder Outstanding Young Band Director Award by the Nebraska State Band Masters.

Doug received his Master of Science in School Counselor from UNO in 2004 and transitioned from a band director to middle school counselor while remaining at Westside Community Schools, where he still works today.

Doug's greatest professional passion is advocating for the school counseling profession and advancing the profession within the education community in Nebraska and on the national stage. During his tenure as Nebraska School Counselor Association (NSCA) President, membership increased more than 4 fold and liquid assets of the association increase by more than 800%. He spent 3 years on the American School Counselor Association's (ASCA's) position statement committee. From 2011-16 Doug served on the ASCA Board of Directors, giving him a platform to advocate in the halls of Congress, in the White House, and across the country. He was twice chosen by the Board of Directors to serve as the Assistance Chair of the Board. In 2017, Doug was hired as the Executive Director of the Nebraska School Counselor Association.

In his free time, Doug enjoys spending time at his cabin and attending Husker Volleyball games, enjoying Broadway Musicals, and traveling. He is grateful to his partner Robert, parents, and sister for their unwavering support. He is so proud of his nephews and they serve as a constant reminder of why all students deserve access to a certified school counselor.







# LINDA POOLE

## Distinguished Professional Achievement Award

### *Teacher Education Department*

As a lifelong educator, Linda Poole has devoted her life to serving public schools. Linda has served for 24 years on the Millard Public Schools (MPS) Board of Education, holding all offices, including four years as President.

Linda has worked at the state and national levels as board member of the Nebraska School Boards Association for over fifteen years, including serving as President. Linda served on the National School Boards Board of Directors representing the Midwest Region. During her tenure on the MPS Board of Education, MPS was recognized by Gallup as one of the great places to work; received the Founders award by the Boys and Girls Club; and recognized by the National Association of School Boards for an outstanding strategic planning process. Some board accomplishments include passing three bond issues and one levy override, being the only district in the state with a K-12 International Baccalaureate program, and establishing many other choice programs such as an Early College Program.

Linda knows what it's like to be in a classroom. She has taught both in Millard and the Papillion LaVista Community Schools (PLCS) for over 18 years, including first grade, third grade, and most recently, sixth grade. In 2015, Linda was selected to attend the Phil Mikelson Math and Science Academy. She wrote and received three grants from the PLCS Foundation for materials to use in the classroom. She has worked with six different student teachers and mentored three new staff members, and she serves on her school's leadership team. Governor Heineman appointed Linda as the only teacher in the state of Nebraska to serve on the Governor's Technical Advisory Committee for statewide assessment, and she was recently reappointed by Governor Ricketts.



# AN AWARD OF DISTINCTION

is given to a member of the  
community who has made a  
significant contribution to  
education and/or the college.

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**1991-1992** | Leta Holley

**1993-1994** | Paul Kennedy

**1995-1996** | Kenneth Hansen

**1996-1997** | Del Weber

**1998-1999** | Hollie Bethel  
Jack & Marilyn MacAllister

**2005-2006** | Tim Fitzgerald

**2010-2011** | John T. Langan

**2013-2014** | Ronald Burmood

**2015-2016** | Ruth and Bill Scott

**2018-2019** | Bob Whitehouse



# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

**1988-1989** Hollie Bethel • Kenneth Bird • Ellen Coffey • Luvern Cunningham • Larry Dlugosh • Nancy Matsukis • Ron Withem • Ronald Witt ■ **1989-1990** Jean Beyer • David Cain • Joseph Caniglia • Ron Cisar • Connie Claussen • Margaret Fitch • Mary Harvey ■ **1990-1991** Bobbie Davis • Christina Plambeck • Thomas Romberg • Barbara Schweiger • Janet Seaman • James Tangdall ■ **1991-1992** Mark Caughey • Joyce Christensen • Judith Dobson • John Morrissey • Bernice Nared • Nancy O'Brien • JoAnn Tews ■ **1992-1993** John Bonaiuto • Jeri Engen • James Freeman • Patricia Hudson • Daniel Murphy • Kelly Wanzenreid ■ **1993-1994** Cheri Barg • Don Benning • JoAnn Braymen • Sharon Franzen • Bruce Hayden, Jr. • Carolyn Law • Betty Start ■ **1994-1995** Donald Anderson • Linda Hayek • Roy Hunter • Norma Johnson • John Mackiel • Lane Plugge • Ann Potter ■ **1995-1996** Dennis Dunning • James Howard • Kay Kronholm • Kathy Menke • Dorothy Nolan • Shirlee Walsh ■ **1996-1997** John Atherton • Katherine Fletcher • Dennis Flood • Patricia Katskee • Deborah Loper • Timothy Rasinski • Barbara VanWassen-hoven ■ **1997-1998** Kathleen Adams • MaryAnn Bragg • Robert Bruckner • Theodore DeLaet • Joan Denton • Sonia Green • James Ramirez • Steven Shanahan ■ **1998-1999** Michael Denney • Janet Fidler • Jolene Pace • Eleanor Renee Rodriguez • Robert Whitehouse • Raymond Wood ■ **1999-2000** David Carter • Thresa Clark • Denise Fandel • Karen Johns • Roger Kassebaum • Stephen Kleinsmith • Jon Lopez • Arleen Michael ■ **2000-2001** Rick Black • Janice Gilmore • Robert Graham • Gary Hammack • Robert Ingram • Joseph Leutzinger • Linda Pappas ■ **2001-2002** Ramona Bartee • Ruth Randall Benson • Patricia Hageman • Joyce Huebner • Richard Kolowski • Roger McGargill ■ **2002-2003** Kirby Eltiste • Stephen Hardiman • LeAnn Heflin • Germaine Huber • John Moore • Kay Ryan ■ **2003-2004** Stephen Abraham • Robert Danenhauer • Sandra Hodges • Ann Luther • Joye McLeod • Tony Vincent • Charlotte Wetzel ■ **2004-2005** Ted Esser • Howard Halperin • Barbara Jessing • Michelle Miske McCart • Linda Placzek ■ **2005-2006** Richard Christie • Don Klosterman • Vincent Lenz • Sarah Sanford • Suzanne Wintle ■ **2006-2007** Bruce Dickinson • Deborah Frison • Janice Garnett • Kebbelin Himmelberg • Helene Lohman ■ **2007-2008** Gerry B. Kuhlman • Loral Langemeier • Michael Nuschy • Margie Reed-Schmid • Lisa St. Clair ■ **2008-2009** Karen Clark • Dick C. E. Davis • Max Kurz • Timothy Rasinski ■ **2009-2010** Elizabeth Cernech • Kelly Karkosky • Robert Jorgensen • Shirley Key • Alice Kosowsky • Carolyn Paseneaux • Jason Plourde • James Porter • Sharon Struve • Janet Urban ■ **2010-2011** Rebecca Vinton Dorn • Thomas Harvey • Bob Lykke • Mary Lykke • Antje S. Mefferd • Kathy Solomon ■ **2011-2012** Stephanie Koraleski • Paul Malcom • Stanley Maliszewski • Ferial Pearson • Beverly Petersen ■ **2012-2013** Martha Bruckner • Tonya Martin • Chad McGhee • Elizabeth Mulkerrin • W. Michael Walsh ■ **2013-2014** Robert Buresh • Dwayne Chism • Jacqueline Huscroft • D'Angelo • Norma Morehouse • Andrew Rikli ■ **2014-2015** Karen G. Anderson • Nancy Oberst • D. Scott Parsons • Marti Rosen-Atherton • Jorge Zuniga ■ **2015-2016** Ryan Kaiser • Tamra Llewellyn • Susie Melliger • Cathy Nelson • Maureen O'Donnell • Melissa M. Scott-Pandorf ■ **2016-2017** Mark Adler • Maddie Fennell • Jessie M. Huisinga • Cyndi Muhlbauser • Brent Schade ■ **2017-2018** Carri Collins • Tiffany Elliott • Karen Hayes Harris • Tanya Lager • Megan Riebe Reay ■ **2018-2019** Cathy McMahon • Marquisha Frost • Shane Wurdeman • Emily Rivera • Sister Rosemary Arrah



## HOLLIE BETHEL

Named for the university's first female department chair, Dr. Hollie Bethel, the Distinguished Alumni luncheon began as a way to recognize significant achievements of alumni who passionately embody the college's mission in their careers and community involvement. Dr. Hollie Bethel was a pioneer for the Department of Elementary Education (now Teacher Education); modeling high-standards, she led by example and was highly revered by her students and colleagues. Her legacy continues through the annual luncheon event, celebrating the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences' most accomplished alumni.

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES

[cehhs.unomaha.edu](http://cehhs.unomaha.edu)

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**Nebraska**  
Omaha

