



## 2019 Teacher of the Year

### Heritage Attendance Area



#### ***Matt Bucher, Heritage Elementary***

**SUBJECT AREA:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING WITH EACS:** 25

**NUMBER OF YEARS WITH EACS:** 25

**FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT:** My favorite teaching moment occurs each year when my class takes a couple of field trips to the Adams of Heritage Nursing Home in Monroeville. I enjoy seeing the relationships that the students build with the residents and the challenge that it brings to many students that have never been in that environment. Preparing students for their interviews, singing, speaking into a microphone, writing activity, and uncomfortable situations they might encounter at the nursing home is something I truly enjoy. Students learn that they can have a big impact on someone's life when they see their residents eyes light up when they return to the nursing home to sing and share special memories with each other.

# DREAM IT. DO IT.



**2019 Teacher of the Year**  
**Heritage Attendance Area**

***Mike Shirey, Heritage Jr. Sr. High***



**SUBJECT AREA:** Agricultural Science and Business

**NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING:** 30

**NUMBER OF YEARS WITH EACS:** 30

**FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT:**

There have been many wonderful moments during my teaching career.

Most often is when I see the light bulb go off or the 'aha moment' with a student and they realize their potential.

**DREAM IT. DO IT.**



# 2019 Teacher of the Year

## Harding Attendance Area

### *Alicia Kaleta, Southwick Elementary*



**SUBJECT AREA:** Kindergarten

**NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING:** 12

**NUMBER OF YEARS WITH EACS:** 3

**FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT:** For my birthday last year, a

student gave me a card that she had written these words..."A big birthday wish for my wonderful teacher. I am able to write this message all because of you." It touched my heart and I will never forget that student! She also gave me a plastic flower hair clip to go with it. It made me smile!

# DREAM IT. DO IT.



# 2019 Teacher of the Year

## Harding Attendance Area



### ***Diane Evans, Prince Chapman Academy***

**SUBJECT AREA:** Reading Specialist

**NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING:** 20

**NUMBER OF YEARS WITH EACS:** 12

**FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT:** A favorite teaching moment was the time when my small group was sitting at the back

table and discussing our Leveled Literacy book about a famous brain surgeon. According to the story, this particular doctor had some troubles when he was young and in elementary school. He failed his multiplication test and got a zero score. He also had a temper problem when it came to getting along with the other kids.

Charles, a young man in my reading group said, "Mrs. Evans!" I said, "Yes, Charles?" (uncertain what might plop out of his mouth next...) We all know that feeling. "Mrs. Evans! I have a Connection to Text." "Yes Charles, what is it?" I said. "Well...I used to do really bad on MY multiplication tests and I used to have a BAD temper problem last year in third grade! I can't believe it. There is a chance I can be famous one day, too!!!"

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# 2019 Teacher of the Year

## Harding Attendance Area



### ***Mark Pranger, Paul Harding Junior***

**SUBJECT AREA:** English/Language Arts

**NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING:** 9

**NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING WITH EACS:** 7

**FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT:** My favorite moments are

when students come back to visit years after they had my class. I always enjoy hearing about how they benefited from their time with me, about their most recent successes, and mostly I enjoy hearing about their future plans. One of my former 7th graders came back to visit as a senior in high school. Not only did she remember the book that the class was reading, but she stayed for a few minutes and helped a student with her assignment. I chatted with her for a bit. She thanked me and left. Though it was a simple, sweet moment, it will stay with me as a reminder that I really do have an impact on my students' lives.

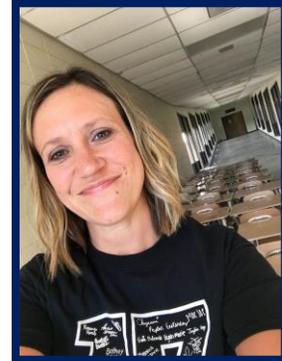
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# 2019 Teacher of the Year

## Harding Attendance Area

***Shannon R. Eichenauer***  
***East Allen University***



**SUBJECT AREA:** English

**NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING:** 9

**NUMBER OF YEARS WITH EACS:** 7

**FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT:** There are so many that it is difficult to say, but I know that is what all teachers say. What I can say when thinking of moments that have meant the most to me in my teaching career usually they are filled with a student or parent saying, "Thank you for not giving up."

I am a tenacious teacher and sometimes that can be annoying I suppose if you are on the other side. But in those moments when I am challenged and I get a 'thank you' it keeps me focused and reminds me why I am doing this.

# DREAM IT. DO IT.



# 2019 Teacher of the Year

## Leo Attendance Area

### ***Melinda Delagrange, Cedarville Elementary***

**SUBJECT AREA:** 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

**NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING:** 21

**NUMBER OF YEARS WITH EACS:** 21

**FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT:** My most memorable moment happened shortly after my students made cards for veterans on Veteran's Day. One of my students got a response back from a veteran who was in WWII. This student wasn't very interested in school at this point, but his face lit up as he was surprised that someone would write back. (Real world learning) Inside the card was a nice thank you and a copy of a photograph taken of the veteran next to a tank during the actual war. It really made that student's day and I've seen a positive change in his attitude toward school. This really warmed my heart and made that moment unforgettable. It affirmed the importance of integrating real world activities into my classroom and what impact it can make.



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# 2019 Teacher of the Year

## Leo Attendance Area

### *Stacey Zeisloft, Leo Elementary*



**SUBJECT AREA:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING:** 15

**NUMBER OF YEARS WITH EACS:** 5

**FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT:** I had a young man in my class who I'll refer to as GK, and he had a difficult time developing relationships with his peers and often acted out as the class clown to make others laugh. GK had celebrated his birthday and a few days later brought his birthday money to school and was giving it to other students because "he'd gotten too much". When 2 students approached me and shared that he'd given them money and saw him giving it to others as well, I questioned him. He was

embarrassed and said he hadn't given anyone money. I asked our SAS to talk with him, so I could address the rest of my class. I called it, "Our family meeting." I asked if anyone had received money, and why they thought GK would be handing it out. Of course, there were answers of "to brag", "to show off", and "because he wants to be nice." But then one student said, "I think he wants us to be his friends, and it's his way of trying to make friends." I began to cry because my heart hurt to know GK felt friendless, and now the rest of my class knew. It was time for me to help all of my students learn to see him from a different point of view. We discussed other behaviors that would prove his feelings about, and desire for, friendship. As our "family meeting" continued, students began to have "a-ha" moments about conversations they'd had with GK and ways they were contributing to his view of friendship. Some students apologized, others cried, and then they began to form a plan to show him that we love and accept him just the way he is. Over the course of the year, I saw "a family" develop in my room. My heart was so full!

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# 2019 Teacher of the Year

## Leo Attendance Area

### *Jessica Hancock, Leo Jr. Sr. High*



**SUBJECT AREA:** Language Arts (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>)

**NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING:** 17

**NUMBER OF YEARS WITH EACS:** 17

**FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT:** I love the 'aha' moment that students have when they understand something new. But my

favorite teaching moment is when I see students outside of the classroom-- in the hallways or the library or the community-- and they greet me with, "Hey, Ms. Hancock!" or they want to bring a parent to meet me. This is when I know that the culture of community and the relationships I've tried to build in my classroom have been effective, and that's when real learning can take place for most kids. My favorite teaching moment is when everyone-- parent, student, and myself-- realize we are all trying to achieve the same goal and we all pursue it together.

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## 2019 Teacher of the Year

### New Haven Attendance Area



### **Courtnie Felger, New Haven Primary**

**SUBJECT AREA:** Elementary Education

**NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING:** 23

**NUMBER OF YEARS WITH EACS:** 21

**FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT:** Each year I strive to create a sense of family within my classroom. This year we had a special education student leave to attend a program at a different school. When I told the class he was leaving they were upset because they were going to miss him and then got up and gave him a group hug. The student hugged his friends goodbye and told them he would miss them. It warmed my heart to see the love they shared towards each other with the group hug.

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## 2019 Teacher of the Year

### New Haven Attendance Area



#### **Tasha Dommer, New Haven Intermediate**

**SUBJECT AREA:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

**NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING:** 11

**NUMBER OF YEARS WITH EACS:** 7

**FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT:** One year I had a student show up on the first day of school who wanted nothing to do with school. He didn't like one thing about school and

wanted to be anywhere but school. I saw this as a challenge. I made it my mission to change this child's mind. He was going to LOVE school! I made connections with him and found out what he liked. I celebrated when he arrived to school and told him I would miss him on the weekend. Nothing! He still did NOT like anything about school. I was starting to lose hope and then Christmas came along. Students were bringing me gifts as they walked into class that last day before break. My friend, the one who still didn't like anything about school, brings me a hand written note. Initially, I thought it was a note from his parents. Maybe a transportation change, but he stood there smiling at me. Smiles were few and far between for him. Curiosity won and I had to see what was on that paper. Inside was a page long, hand written note from him. To sum it up, he thanked me for being his teacher, said he was happy I was his teacher, and told me he was going to do better. That is my favorite moment.

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## 2019 Teacher of the Year

### New Haven Attendance Area



### Stephen Gurney, New Haven Middle

**SUBJECT AREA:** Math

**NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING:** 18

**NUMBER OF YEARS WITH EACS:** 18

**FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT:** My most favorite moments

are when kids understand concepts from grade levels far above 7th grade.

# DREAM IT. DO IT.



## 2019 Teacher of the Year

### New Haven Attendance Area



#### **Mindy Schuemann, New Haven High**

**SUBJECT AREA:** Life Skills Program

**NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING:** 20

**NUMBER OF YEARS WITH EACS:** 15

**FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT:** I am lucky enough to have my students for at least 4 years. When you have students

that long you become a family. After not being together all summer, I love seeing them on the first day of school. We are able to catch up with each other and discuss all of our goals for the new year. The first day of school is by far my favorite teaching moment that I enjoy every year!

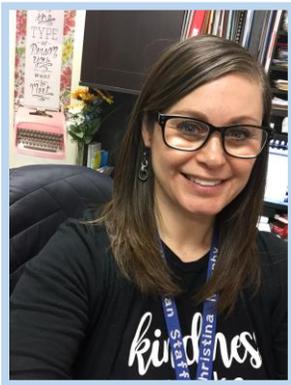
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## 2019 Teacher of the Year

### Woodlan Attendance Area

#### Christina Murphy, Woodlan Elementary



**SUBJECT AREA:** Guidance Counselor

**NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING:** 23

**NUMBER OF YEARS WITH EACS:** 23

**FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT:** My favorite moments are when I see children showing kindness and empathy to one another, especially when they don't know we're watching. Recently, one of our 1st grade students was upset because he didn't have Valentine's cards for his classmates. I asked

him to join one of my 3rd grade groups that morning and with their help, was able to write out cards for all of his friends. All of them left my office that day with big smiles, having learned a valuable lesson about the power of compassion and kindness.

# DREAM IT. DO IT.



## 2019 Teacher of the Year

### Woodlan Attendance Area

#### Wendy Singer, Woodlan Jr. Sr. High



**SUBJECT AREA:** English, sociology, psychology

**NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING:** 13

**NUMBER OF YEARS WITH EACS:** 8

**FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT:** My favorite moment isn't really a moment but a connection. My sophomores were researching colleges and higher education opportunities. One girl was struggling with what she wanted to do. After some reading, one of the things she included in her essay was the

military. She took the assignment way beyond the requirements, talked to people, and made a plan. She got in shape and completed all the preliminary work for admittance into the military while still in high school. Last spring, she graduated and headed out for basic training with the U.S. Air Force. We have maintained contact, and she is thriving. She says that the project turned her in to something she may never have considered. She came back in late March to visit and do recruiting at Woodlan. She is successful and happy with the life she is living!

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