



District 200 Education Foundation

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William Schuette to Receive 3rd Annual Excellence Award

The District 200 Education Foundation has been promoting excellence in District 200 schools since 1994. Two years ago, the organization decided to expand its mission by introducing an award to honor an individual whose contributions have resulted in significant improvement to education in District 200. Nominations are solicited in the fall, and a five-member selection committee appointed by the Foundation Board of Trustees reviews the nomination materials and recommends a winner to the Board. Bud Swarthout was selected as the first recipient in 2011 and Barb Banker was selected as the recipient in 2012.

The Foundation is pleased to announce that **William W. (Bill) Schuette** is the recipient of this year's District 200 Award of Excellence. Bill Schuette was a well-regarded and influential principal of Greenwood Elementary School for 29 years. He retired from the District in 1990, but came out of retirement twice to help the District 200 as a substitute principal at Dean Street School in 1992, and at Clay Elementary School in 1998. Bill is one of the most well-respected administrators in the district's history, and continues to be beloved and treasured by his former staff members as well as former Greenwood students and their parents.

Bill coined the phrase "Excellence Through Effort" which became (and still is) the motto of Greenwood. According to teachers who worked for him, Bill embodied this motto throughout his career; and encouraged his staff and students to do the same. Because of Bill's work at Greenwood, both he and Greenwood School were nominated for a "Those Who Excel" award, given by the State Board of Education. Bill helped his staff solicit competitive educational grants, and guided them in best educational practices and innovative curriculum.

In his letter of nomination, Principal Thomas Wollpert (a graduate of Greenwood) called Mr. Schuette the role model that guided his career in education. He said, "Mr. Schuette influenced the lives of hundreds of staff members and thousands of students in an incredibly positive way." Mr. Wollpert went on to say, "There is a positive nature to Mr. Schuette that made him a natural leader, highly respected by the people with whom and for whom he worked."

Former Greenwood teacher, Catherine Amundsen, has said, "Bill Schuette is set apart from other outstanding educators by his professional wisdom, leadership style, wit and heart. Through his example, Bill taught our staff to respect everyone, that our job was to meet our students where they were, move them forward, and to expect the best from ourselves and our students." Assistant Superintendent Mark Heckmon concluded, "I can't think of anyone more deserving of the District 200 Education Foundation Award of Excellence than William Schuette, a true educational leader and an inspiration to those that know him." The Foundation agrees and would like to congratulate Bill on an outstanding career, and thank him for all he has done for the students of District 200.

The Foundation Board would like to thank this year's committee for their efforts in selecting our award recipient. The committee consisted of Dr. Brian Gerloff, community member and member of the WHS Class of 1972; Martha Hanson, parent; Marcy Piekos, D200 Board of Education representative; George Oslovich, Assistant Superintendent for Middle and High School Education; and Erich Thurow, District 200 Education Foundation Trustee.