



District 200 Education Foundation

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Barb Banker to receive 2nd annual Excellence Award

The second annual Award of Excellence will be presented by the District 200 Education Foundation to the Woodstock school district's Director of Community Services Barbara S. Banker on February 4 at the Foundation's fundraising dinner. Barb will retire from her position at the end of the school year.

Barb began her career with District 200 in 1989 when she was selected to lead the Community Services Department for the school district. A native of Illinois and a teacher and guidance counselor after graduating from DePauw University, Barb came to the district after serving four years in a similar position with the Clarkston, Michigan school district.

In her nomination letter, Ellyn Wrzeski, superintendent for District 200, called Ms. Banker "one of the most skilled, hard-working and dedicated individuals that I have ever worked with." Ms. Wrzeski said, "Everything that Barb has done throughout her career in District 200 has reverberated throughout the district." Quoting from the district's mission statement, Ms. Wrzeski concludes, "She has helped to develop a 'District 200 Culture of Excellence that Engages the Community and Inspires the Future'."

Denise Graff Ponstein of Indepth Graphics has worked with Barb Banker for more than two decades. In a letter of recommendation for the award, Ponstein notes that "Barb leads by example. She sets the tone and goes above and beyond her job description." Ms. Ponstein agrees that Barb Banker is fully invested in the district's mission statement and added, "First and foremost (she) puts children first."

School Board President Paul Meyer has said that "Barb Banker has demonstrated and promoted excellence throughout her career in Woodstock." Associate Superintendent Mark Heckmon who has worked with Barb for much of her tenure in the district concludes, "I can't think of anyone more deserving of the Award of Excellence."

The Award of Excellence is the latest award and recognition to be received by Barb Banker. The Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association featured her as their latest Member Spotlight recipient. Barb has served as president, vice president and chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee for the organization.

Foundation chairman Rick Amundsen has announced the group will present the award to Ms. Banker at this year's Groundhog Day Dinner and Auction on Saturday, February 4 at D'Andrea Banquets and Conference Center in Crystal Lake. Tickets for the event are available at the District 200 Administration Office at 227 W. Judd Street. Tickets for the event are \$50 per person which includes dinner. The event will begin at 5:30 pm. For more information, call 815-337-5406.