



District 200 Education Foundation

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Jim Campion to Receive Annual Award of Excellence

The fourth annual District 200 Education Foundation Award of Excellence will be presented to former Foundation chairman Jim Campion at the Foundation fundraising dinner and auction on February 1.

Jim began his involvement with the Education Foundation in 2002 as a board member, and has since served as chairman and a member of the fundraising committee. Even after retiring from the Foundation Board in 2009, Jim continues to volunteer his services in managing the annual reverse raffle which raises approximately \$4,500 for the Foundation. A partner in the law firm of Campion, Curran, Lamb and Cunabaugh, Jim has lived in Woodstock for the past 41 years and worked on citizen referendum committees twice for District 200.

In his nomination letter, Craig Krandel called Jim “a tireless advocate not only for the schools, but for most every other community organization you can name.” Krandel went on to say that Jim “epitomizes the spirit of what makes our community a great place to raise our children and have them go to school.”

Superintendent Ellyn Wrzeski has said, “I have had the opportunity to work closely with Jim Campion on Foundation activities and I count him as one of those unique and rare individuals who truly typifies ‘servant leadership.’” Mrs. Wrzeski concluded, “Jim was the guiding force for the District 200 Foundation for many years. He has given his time and effort selflessly to provide funds for activities that have directly impacted and enriched student experiences and opportunities in District 200.”

Rick Amundsen, past chairman of the Foundation, said, “Under Jim’s leadership, our major annual fundraising event, the Groundhog Day Dinner Auction, grew from a relatively small gathering to a major community event which has netted up to \$40,000 annually for the benefit of District 200 students.”

Current Foundation chairman Erich Thurow said, “When I contacted Jim to tell him of his selection for the award, he was, as expected, both humble and appreciative.” Thurow concluded, “I don’t know where we would be without the years of dedication of Jim Campion,

but I know there are thousands of students who have benefitted from Foundation grants which would not have been there without his efforts.”

Previous award winners include retired teacher Harlow “Bud” Swarthout and Barb Banker, former District 200 Community Service Director. Last year’s winner was long time educator Bill Schuette.

This year’s District 200 Award of Excellence will be presented at the Education Foundation’s Groundhog Day Dinner and Auction on Saturday, February 1 at Donley’s Village Hall Banquets in Union. Tickets for the dinner may be purchased online at d200edfoundation.org or by calling the District 200 Administrative Center at (815) 337-5406.

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