

**For Immediate Release...**

**Contact: Sheri Thompson**, Director of Communications/Public Relations, Pennsylvania Principals Association at [sherit@paprincipals.org](mailto:sherit@paprincipals.org) or 717-732-4999, ext. 113

## Judith Castrogiovanni Named Pennsylvania's 2021 National Distinguished Principal

(ENOLA, PA) — **Judith A. Castrogiovanni**, Principal of Jefferson Elementary School, Jefferson Township, Pa., in the North Pocono School District, has been named **Pennsylvania's 2021 National Distinguished Principal (NDP) by the Pennsylvania Principals Association**. As a state winner in the National Association of Elementary School Principals' (NAESP) National Distinguished Principal (NDP) Program, Mrs. Castrogiovanni will be honored by NAESP and the PA Principals Association at special award ceremonies in the fall.

Dr. Jonathan G. Ross, Chair of the PA Principals Association's National Distinguished Principal Selection Committee, said, "The committee was unanimous in the selection of Judy Castrogiovanni as this year's winner. Under her leadership, Jefferson Elementary School has demonstrated consistent progress which has been recognized with multiple awards. In addition, Mrs. Castrogiovanni has engaged with her community in a myriad of ways that demonstrate an exemplary level of leadership."

An educator for 24 years, Mrs. Castrogiovanni served in her current role as the principal at Jefferson Elementary School (K-3) since 2009. Previously, she taught English at the North Pocono Middle School from 2007-2009. She also held the positions of English coordinator for the Abington Heights School District from 2004-2007 and English teacher at Abington Heights High School from 1997-2004.

"I am thankful and thrilled to earn this award and share it with our outstanding North Pocono School District community and the extraordinary members of the Jefferson Elementary family," said Mrs. Castrogiovanni.

-more-

*Executive Director*  
**Paul M. Healey, Ph.D.**  
122 Valley Street  
Enola, PA 17025

*Assistant Executive Director*  
**Dr. Eric C. Eshbach**  
122 Valley Street  
Enola, PA 17025

*President*  
**Dr. Jonathan G. Ross**  
Downingtown Area SD

*Immediate Past President*  
**Michael E. Allison\***  
Hopewell Area SD

*Treasurer*  
**Dr. Jessica L. Quinter**  
Juniata Valley SD

*NASSP Coordinator*  
**Curtis E. Johnson**  
State College Area SD

*NAESP Representative*  
**Dr. Melissa D. Patschke**  
Spring-Ford Area SD

**West Region**  
Teresa Pearce, *Corry Area SD*  
Brian Fuller, *Millcreek Township SD*  
Dr. David Keibler\*, *Leechburg Area SD*  
Dr. Jerald Barris, *Pennsylvania Cyber CS*  
Dr. Carol Sprinker, *Quaker Valley SD*  
Dr. Jason Olexa, *Brentwood Borough SD*

**Central Region**  
James Orichosky, *Bald Eagle Area SD*  
Rebecca Stanfield, *Towanda Area SD*  
Dr. Beth Haldeman, *Cocalico SD*  
Dr. Benjamin Feeney, *Lampeter-Strasburg SD*  
Kristin Musselman, *Tyrone SD*  
Dr. Curt Vasas, *Forest Hills SD*

**East Region**  
Brian Kelly, *Mid Valley SD*  
Joseph Hanni, *Scranton SD*  
Robert Farina, *Brandywine Heights Area SD*  
Michael Maley, *Pottsville Area SD*  
Dr. Nicholas Indeglio, *Downingtown Area SD*  
Jonathan Bauer, *Upper Merion Area SD*

**Diversity at Large**  
Dr. Eduardo Antonetti, *Mid Valley SD*

**Assistant Principal at Large**  
Dr. Daniel Beck, *Upper St. Clair SD*

\*Alternative Funding Co-Chair

## **Judith Castrogiovanni Named PA's 2021 NDP - Page 2 of 3**

Under Mrs. Castrogiovanni's leadership, Jefferson Elementary School earned North Pocono School District's first National Blue Ribbon for Exemplary High Performance in 2019. Working with the Jefferson and North Pocono School District communities, she was instrumental in bringing about significant enhancements to their outdoor community resources on campus including a basketball court, new playgrounds and benches, a beautiful butterfly garden and an enhanced softball complex. She also facilitated the creation of a dedicated intervention period for student-centered, data-driven learning every day for every student. In addition, on the first day of the pandemic school closing, Mrs. Castrogiovanni initiated a school YouTube channel. She created a video every day to keep their school community connected. The videos sometimes involved students, teachers and families sharing their own contributions. "Once we returned to in person learning, the videos became weekly and are still ongoing. It's been a powerful tool for connection, information and joy," she related.

"We are tremendously happy for this great honor for Judy, Jefferson Elementary, North Pocono and our community. She has a passion for making every child be a better person through kindness and love. We thank the PA Principals Association for recognizing her excellence," shared Bryan McGraw, Superintendent of North Pocono School District.

Mrs. Castrogiovanni and her team at Jefferson Elementary have also been involved with bringing the Olweus Bullying Prevention program to North Pocono School District by acting as the pilot school for the powerful program that teaches and supports positive interaction and support through education and community cooperation. "If I am remembered for anything, I hope it is for how I welcomed everyone into the Jefferson family and supported them so they could share their gifts and shine their brightest," she said.

According to PA Principals Association Executive Director, Paul M. Healey, Ph.D., "Mrs. Castrogiovanni is a fantastic representative of one of the many effective school leaders across Pennsylvania and we congratulate her on being named as our state's 2021 National Distinguished Principal. Her ongoing commitment to her students, staff and the community has been outstanding. We look forward to honoring her with this prestigious award in the very near future."

## **Judith Castrogiovanni Named PA's 2021 NDP - Page 3 of 3**

Mrs. Castrogiovanni earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and Secondary Education English and a Master of Science in School Administration from the University of Scranton. She and her husband of 21 years, Joe, along with their sons, Brian, 19, and Jason 15, reside in Moscow, Pa., which is in the North Pocono School District. In addition, her sons were students at Jefferson Elementary where she was their principal.

“I am a proud 1993 North Pocono graduate -- the framed diploma hangs on the wall of my office alongside my degrees from the University of Scranton. My family, including my parents Jerry and Cathy Pinataro, and my in-laws Joe and Mimi Castrogiovanni, have been critical supports in my life and their encouragement has empowered me to pursue and achieve my goals,” she shared.

###



**Judith A. Castrogiovanni**

***About the PA Principals Association:*** The PA Principals Association membership of approximately 3,500 is comprised of elementary, middle level and secondary school principals, assistant principals and other educational leaders and is affiliated with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

***The Mission of the Pennsylvania Principals Association:*** To ensure a quality education for every child by comprehensively supporting the educational leaders of our schools.

***The Vision of the Pennsylvania Principals Association:*** To be the best service organization of its kind in the United States.