



PENNSYLVANIA PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION

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Dr. Diane Kirk to Receive PA Principals Association's Educational Excellence Award

(ENOLA, PA) — Diane L. Kirk, Ph.D., recently retired Clinical Associate Professor in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education, and the Director of the Tri-State Area School Study Council, has been selected to receive the **2022 Educational Excellence Award** by the Pennsylvania Principals Association. The association's most prestigious award is given to a person who has been a "friend of public education" and who has made significant contributions to the attainment of educational excellence in the commonwealth's elementary and secondary schools. Dr. Kirk will receive the award at the PA Principals Association's LEAD22 Conference at Kalahari Poconos Resorts, during an awards' dinner on Oct. 16, 2022.

Dr. Kirk was surprised with a retirement celebration, surrounded by 100 colleagues, her family and friends, held on Wednesday evening, August 17, 2022, at the Edgewood Country Club in Churchill, PA. Dr. Eric Eshbach, PA Principals Association Executive Director, presented her with a beautiful planter, and along with Dr. Carol Sprinker, PA Principals Association board member, revealed that she was the recipient of the 2022 Educational Excellence Award. Dr. Eshbach said, "Dr. Kirk's commitment to Pennsylvania educational leaders and to public education made her the perfect choice to receive the PA Principals Association's most prestigious award. She is well known across the commonwealth for her work as a leader, teacher and a mentor."

In her esteemed 50-year career in education, Dr. Kirk has served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent of schools (Peters Township School District from 1997-2006). For the last 17 years, she has served as an associate professor of education at the University of Pittsburgh where she managed the superintendent, principal and curriculum and instruction

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internship courses in the Department of Administrative and Policy Studies that all students must complete in order to gain certification in Pennsylvania. As the Director of the Tri-State Area School Study Council, Dr. Kirk manages Tri-State's activities, including research and development assistance for member school districts, conferences and professional development opportunities.

Dr. Sprinker who nominated Dr. Kirk for this award, said, "Dr. Kirk is a fierce advocate of public education and strong supporter of educational leaders across the commonwealth. She values relationships, models professionalism and encourages career development for principals and superintendents. She's a teacher, mentor, counselor and friend who will be greatly missed at the University of Pittsburgh."

Dr. Kirk holds a bachelor's degree in education from Youngstown University; a Master of Science in education and her elementary principal certificate from Duquesne University; and a Ph.D. in educational administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Michelle Miller, Superintendent of School at South Fayette School District, said, "Dr. Diane Kirk is unparalleled in her ability to connect school leaders, educators, and school districts. She is deeply passionate about knowing current and future administrators in the region in a meaningful way. By doing this, she has been critical in helping create a talented pipeline of school leaders. Dr. Kirk's commitment to the students, educators, administrators in the Pittsburgh region has been unwavering and has been critical for the success of local school districts."

"I am so honored to be recognized for doing what I love doing so much and for working with these people who are trying to manage these very challenging jobs. We need strong, resilient leaders who are compassionate about children in principal roles. I've worked with so many students across the commonwealth, and mainly in western Pennsylvania, who are now in principal roles, and it is very gratifying," shared Dr. Kirk.

Dr. Kirk resides in Pleasant Hills, PA (South Hills of Pittsburgh). She has one son, John E. Kirk IV.

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Over 100 colleagues, family and friends gathered at the Edgewood Country Club, Churchill, PA, to celebrate Dr. Diane Kirk's (*right*) retirement and her contributions to education. Dr. Eric Eshbach (*left*), PA Principals Association Executive Director, announced that she was the recipient of the association's 2022 Educational Excellence Award. Also pictured: Dr. Kirk's son, John E. Kirk IV, and his girlfriend, Larissa Lamonde.

About the PA Principals Association: The PA Principals Association membership of approximately 3,500 is composed 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.*