



North Cedar Community School District ALUMNI AWARDS

Alumni Awards honor graduates of North Cedar High School or one of the former districts that now make up North Cedar. Awards are given to alums in recognition of their professional achievements, service to non-profits, community impact, fine arts accomplishments and/or athletic excellence. Nominees are reviewed and recipients are selected by a committee made up of school and community representatives.

Alumni Achievement Award

Suzanne Grimm



Suzanne Grimm, the daughter of the late Louis and Shirley Grimm, is a 1982 graduate of Lincoln High School. At Lincoln, she was involved in softball, volleyball, basketball and track. She was also active in

theater, speech, choir and student government. After high school, she completed her undergraduate degree at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, earned her M.D. from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, and completed psychiatric training at The Karl Menninger School of Psychiatry in Topeka, Kansas.

For more than 20 years, Dr. Grimm has been a practicing psychiatrist in Sheboygan and West Bend, Wisconsin. She currently works four days a week at a private mental health clinic seeing adults 18 years and older with a variety of psychiatric illnesses and works one day a week at a community mental health clinic treating patients with chronic mental illness.

In 1990, she served at a Methodist missionary hospital in Meru, Kenya, providing general medical care. She is also a past board member of Mental Health America and is still involved with their fundraising efforts. She has presented for the pharmaceutical industry teaching other medical professionals about prescribing psychiatric medications and has recently undertaken a new professional adventure in becoming a preceptor and educator for students pursuing their psychiatric nurse practitioner certification.

In the nomination letter, one of her colleagues said, "Suzy is trusted and respected not only for her brilliance in psychiatry, but also

as an example of someone who 'walks her talk' and speaks her truth ... this makes her a much sought after professional."

Though she remains an avid Iowa Hawkeye fan, she has also become a true Green Bay Packer backer during her time in Wisconsin. She is married to Dale Kuklinski. They are dog lovers and also enjoy travel and the outdoors.

Alumni Community Impact Award

Sharon Gutwiler



Sharon Gutwiler is a 1960 graduate of Stanwood High School, where she participated in choir, drama, basketball and softball. She was a 4-H member for seven years, serving in all the officer positions 4-H had to offer.

As a lifelong resident of the area, she has stayed involved with the Stanwood, Lincoln and North Cedar School Districts for more than 60 years, as a parent, employee and volunteer. As a parent, she was a member of the Lincoln Booster Club, serving as president for three years, and she was a member of the Lincoln Music Boosters. She served for six years on the Lincoln School Board, and at that time, she was only the second woman to be elected to the board. She and her husband were chosen as Lincoln's FFA Honorary Chapter Farmer.

Sharon is a member of Stanwood Union Church, where she has served as the chairman, a trustee, board member, Sunday School teacher and Bible School teacher. She has also served on the Memorial and Pastor Search committees, been a member of the Women's Circle and Heart & Soul, and has chaired annual church dinners.

Within her community, Sharon has been

actively involved with 4-H, Stanwood's Quasiquicentennial Committee, Economic Development Corporation, Senior Housing and Cemetery Association. She has served on Save Our Land and held positions both as county and state secretary.

Sharon was the first woman to become a member of the Stanwood Lions Club where she served faithfully for many years. She was treasurer of the Club for 11 years, chaired numerous events and assisted with their Sight First program. Sharon has been honored by the Lions Club as District Lion of the Year.

Sharon shares of herself, her time and her talents freely. She has been a long time blood donor. She organizes her class reunions. She is always lending a helping hand at benefits throughout the communities. Sharon and her late husband, Pat, were recognized with an appreciation award from the Stanwood Fire Department for their assistance during pancake breakfasts and dinners.

To this day, you can find Sharon helping with the Mechanicsville Lions Trunk or Treat luncheon in the fall and working the concession stand at the Mechanicsville Sports Complex in the summer. Sharon said, "I enjoy being around people. Volunteering gives me that opportunity. I have met so many people from other communities as well as my own, in state and out of state. Volunteering is also a good way to stay connected. It gives me a feeling of satisfaction that I have been able to help. Don't wait to be asked, step up and VOLUNTEER!" Sharon's presence at the North Cedar Schools and its activities has touched many students' hearts and has earned her the nicknames of "Grandma Gute" and "Granny Gute."

Sharon and Pat were married for more than 55 years. They have five children, nine grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. Besides working alongside her husband on the family farm, Sharon was also employed by Jack's Feed & Grain, Ropa's Grocery Store, Ditto's, River Valley Coop and North Cedar Schools.

2018-19 Alumni Award Recipients

Alumni Achievement Award

Suzanne Grimm

Alumni Community Impact Award

Sharon Gutwiler

Alumni Service Award

Merlin Hulse

Alumni Achievement Award

Bruce Lehrman

Alumni Athletics Award

Stan Stolte

**Applications for the 2019-20 North Cedar Alumni Awards are due Sept. 15, 2019.
The nomination form is available at www.north-cedar.org**

Alumni Service Award

Merlin Hulse



Merlin Hulse, a 1941 graduate of Clarence High School, participated in choir, band, track, baseball and basketball. After graduation, Merlin continued to work the family farm, where he also raised and bred Clydesdale

horses. In 1985, the Hulse farm was recognized as a Century Farm. In addition to farming, Merlin served as an Iowa State Senator for eight years.

Merlin has made community and volunteer service a lifelong practice. He has been a member of several agricultural organizations, including Cedar County's Farm Bureau, Swine Producers, Beef Producers, Fair Board and Extension Council, the Iowa Draft Horse & Mule Association, and the U.S. Clydesdale Breeders Association. He was also a member of the Cedar County Historical Society and the State Sheriff and Police Organization. In the Clarence community, he was chair of the Clarence Community Centennial in 1959, founding member of the Clarence Lions Club, director for Clarence Community Bank and secretary for the Clarence Rural Fire Association. Merlin was also instrumental in starting the Clarence Community Ambulance.

He has donated many hours of his time to

Camp Courageous over the years. He served on their board, worked with campers and volunteered for fundraisers. Merlin headed up teams that contributed produce to the camp and was also part of a group who brought their horses and carts to give campers rides.

Merlin has served in other leadership roles as a member of St. Luke's Foundation Board, Great River Bend Transit Board, Iowa Nursing Examination Board, United Church of Christ Council and Brotherhood and State Pork Producers Advisory Committee. He was also an Advisory Committee member for Area 10 Community College, served as a trustee for the Hoover Presidential Library and was secretary of the Eastern Iowa Artificial Insemination Dairy Breeding Association.

Merlin has garnered numerous recognitions throughout his lifetime including: membership in the Agricultural Hall of Fame, Kansas City, Mo.; Young Farmer Award, Cedar Rapids Gazette; Outstanding Young Farmer Award, Tipton Chamber of Commerce; Certificate of Recognition, Chicago Livestock Market; Iowa Master Swine Producer; Honorary 4-H Membership; 4-H Leader Award; Lions Club Melvin Jones and Warren Coleman Awards; Family Award, Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce; 1997 Outstanding Volunteer Award, Clarence Senior Citizens; 2015 St. Luke's Foundation Distinguished Founders Award; and 2017 KCRG Show You Care Award.

Merlin and his late wife, Darlene, who were married over 70 years, have two children. The couple provided major gifts to support and name the nurse's station in the St. Luke's Hospice Inpatient Unit, Cedar Rapids, and to fund the Senator Merlin and Darlene Hulse Therapy Center at Clarence Senior Living.

Alumni Achievement Award

Bruce Lehrman



Bruce Lehrman graduated from Lincoln High School in 1985. He was president of his class, president of the FFA and was a member of the football, wrestling and track teams. He attended Iowa State University,

Ames, and earned a B.B.A. degree in marketing.

In 1996, he founded and was CEO of LIVEware5, a streaming media company that grew to be the premier provider of business training technology as a partner to Intel and delivering service to Global 500 companies. Bruce also held the role of Vice President of Data Products at McLeod USA, where he led the national development team that delivered telecom and other IT services. He also served as Chief Information Officer at RuffaloCODY during the company's period of high growth in the higher education fundraising space.

Most recently, in 2007, he founded and is now the CEO of Involta. Involta is a privately held

multi-tenant data center and IT services company headquartered in Cedar Rapids. Involta builds, owns and operates world-class, multi-tenant data centers throughout the country. Inc. Magazine named Involta the second fastest growing IT Company in the country in 2010 and was also selected the Company of the Year by the Technology Association of Iowa. His company was also awarded the Fastest Growing Company by Corridor Business Journal (CBJ) as well as winning the Prometheus Award for IT Service Company of the Year several times this decade.

Bruce was named Entrepreneur of the Year in 2010 by the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce and recognized as Entrepreneur of the Year by CBJ.

He has or is currently serving on the boards or involved with the Iowa Economic Development Authority, Entrepreneurial Development Center, Technology Association of Iowa, Iowa Seed Fund, Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance, FunnelWise, Marion Process Solutions, Geacom, Higher Learning Technology, Van Meter Industrial and Iowa Startup Accelerator. He speaks frequently at industry events and to entrepreneurship programs.

Bruce and his wife Kim live in Cedar Rapids and St. Petersburg, Fla., and have two children; one that works for Amazon in New York and another that works for Wayfair in Boston. His hobbies include cycling, travel and mentoring entrepreneurs.

Alumni Athletics Award

Stan Stolte



Stan Stolte graduated from Clarence-Lowden High School in 1980. He received honors in baseball and basketball and went on to attend Muscatine Community College where he also played both sports. He then

transferred to St. Ambrose University, Davenport, and earned a degree in physical education. At St. Ambrose, he helped the Fighting Bees win an NAIA regional baseball championship in 1984. In 1989, he graduated with a master's degree in education from Northwest Missouri State, Maryville.

He began his coaching career in the high school ranks at Clarence-Lowden, where he led the Rebel baseball team to a record of 110-45. He won four district titles and made one Iowa high school final four appearance in his six-year tenure. He then coached at Northwest Missouri State prior to returning to Muscatine Community College to coach for the 1989-90 season.

His next baseball coaching position was a seven year stint as an assistant coach at University of the Pacific, Stockton, California. He then served on the coaching staff at University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) for 14 seasons, serving his last four years as associate head coach. He also served as pitching coach and recruiting coordinator during his time at Reno, helping UNR to NCAA tournament appearances in 1997, 1999 and 2000. At UNR, he developed 22 all-conference pitchers and three freshman All-Americans.

In 2010, he joined the baseball program at University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) as an associate head coach. He then served as interim head coach for a short period and in June 2016 was named the seventh head coach in UNLV baseball history. He most recently completed the 2018 season with an overall record of 30-17. In the past two years, seven UNLV Rebels have been drafted to the Major leagues. Additionally, he developed 20 All-Americans and five pitchers of the year.

Since joining the collegiate ranks, Stan has coached 106 players that have signed professional contracts, including 17 that made their way to the Major leagues.

Stan grew up in Lowden and is the son of Virjean and the late Larry Stolte. He is married to Susan and they have one son, Jacoby.



THANK YOU

North Cedar Education Foundation
for financially supporting the
Alumni Awards and Reception.