



# 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

### Mark Brodersen

Mark Brodersen, a 1967 graduate of Clarence High School, has built a distinguished career in medicine, education, and service. During high school, he served as senior class president and participated in band, baseball and basketball as a team manager. Brodersen attended the University of Dubuque, graduating in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. While at Dubuque, he completed a summer traineeship at Oak Ridge



National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Brodersen earned a medical degree from the University of Iowa in 1975, followed by an internship at Blodgett Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He completed orthopedic surgery residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, from 1976 to 1980, where he served as chief resident.

From 1980 to 1990, Brodersen practiced orthopedic surgery at the McFarland Clinic in Ames. During this time, he served as a team physician for Iowa State University, provided care through the ISU Student Health Center, acted twice as meet physician for the NCAA National Wrestling Championships, and served as medical director for the inaugural Iowa Games.

In 1990, Brodersen joined the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida, practicing there until retirement in 2020. Leadership roles included serving as chair of orthopedic surgery at both

St. Luke's Hospital and Mayo Clinic Jacksonville. Brodersen also served on the drug-testing team for the Atlanta Olympic Games and taught shoulder arthroscopic surgery at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Learning Center in Chicago. He authored numerous presentations, articles, and book chapters.

Beyond professional work, Brodersen has remained connected to education and service, serving on the University of Dubuque Board of Trustees since 2005. Brodersen and his wife Katherine are the parents of four children: Geoffrey, Craig, Kevin, and Susan. Brodersen's enduring commitment to excellence reflects the values instilled through his Clarence roots and family legacy.

## Alumni Service Award

### Colette Cook

Colette Cook is a 1976 graduate of Lincoln High School with a lifelong commitment to service, education, and community involvement. During high school, Cook was active in student council, National Honor Society, L-Club, newspaper and annual staff, and the drama tech crew. Athletic participation included volleyball, basketball, track and field, softball, and bowling, and Cook was named Lincoln High School's Female Athlete of the Year in 1976. She became the first female student at Lincoln High School to enroll in a woodworking class.

Following graduation, Cook attended the University of Northern Iowa, playing on the women's intercollegiate basketball team and serving as social coordinator for Lawther Residence Hall. In 1981, she earned a bachelor's degree in K-12 physical education and coaching, industrial technology education and safe-

## 2025-26 Alumni Award Recipients

Alumni Achievement Award

### Mark Brodersen

Alumni Service Award

### Colette Cook

Alumni Athletics Award

### Al Deerberg

Alumni Achievement Award

### Chris Mowry

Alumni Achievement Award

### Kate Kedley

ty education. While at UNI, Cook also coached girls' basketball at NU High School in Cedar Falls.



Cook began her career at Olin Consolidated Schools, where she taught physical education and coached. Cook later moved to Linn-Mar High School in Marion, where she spent 30 years teaching industrial tech-

nology and physical education and coaching. Throughout her career, Cook was one of only a small number of women industrial arts teachers in Iowa.

Since retiring in 2017, Cook has devoted time to community service. Cook has grown and donated more than 10,000 pounds of fresh produce to the Linn Community Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids, with continued expansion of garden and orchard efforts. Service roles include elder and clerk of session at First Presbyterian Church in Mechanicsville, along with oversight of technology and music ministries. She is president of the Mechanicsville Garden Club and a member of the Mechanicsville Red Hat Society and the Lincoln All-School Reunion committee. Additional involvement includes participation on the Center Point Model T's Granny Basketball team. Cook also provides active leadership in the Granny Basketball League as an advisory board member and director of the referee oversight committee at the national level.

Cook is the daughter of the late Jim and Marie Cook of Mechanicsville and has a foster son, Corey.

## Alumni Athletics Award

### Al Deerberg

Al Deerberg is a 1974 graduate of Clarence-Lowden High School whose athletic accomplishments span high school, college, and post-collegiate competition. During high school, Deerberg participated in basketball,



baseball, and track. He earned multiple varsity letters in basketball and baseball, along with all-conference recognition.

In basketball, Deerberg scored more than 900 career points and recorded more

than 500 rebounds. Deerberg earned second-team all-conference honors as a sophomore, followed by first-team all-conference recognition as a junior and senior, along with first-team all-Eastern Iowa honors among small schools. As a senior, he averaged 18 points and 11 rebounds per game and helped lead Clarence-Lowden to a No. 1 state ranking and a 19-1 record. In baseball, Deerberg was a three-year letterwinner, earned first-team all-

conference honors as a junior and senior, and received all-district recognition. He finished with a .340 career batting average.

Deerberg continued his athletic career at Kirkwood Community College, playing basketball for two seasons and earning team MVP honors as a sophomore. Deerberg was named to the All-Iowa Junior College Team both seasons and graduated with an Associate of Arts degree in 1977. Deerberg then transferred to Mount Mercy University, where he played basketball and baseball, earned two basketball MVP honors, received first-team all-conference recognition and helped lead the Mustangs to an Iowa-Illinois College Conference championship in 1978. As a senior, Deerberg led the team in free throws made and rebounds and posted the best field goal percentage. He graduated from Mount Mercy in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and education.

Following college, Deerberg remained active in athletics through AAU basketball and playing softball. Deerberg taught and coached at Lisbon High School and also served as a recreation center director. A 30-year career with Sadler Power Train concluded in 2019.

Deerberg is a member of the Mount Mercy Athletic Hall of Fame, the Cedar Rapids Softball Hall of Fame and the Cedar County Sports Wall of Fame. Deerberg and his wife Lois have one son, Ryan, daughter-in-law Katie, and two granddaughters.

## Alumni Achievement Award

### Chris Mowry

Chris Mowry, a 1980 graduate of Clarence-Lowden High School, has built a distinguished career in coaching and education spanning more than four decades. During high school, Mowry participated in baseball, basketball,



tennis, golf, band, and student council, earning multiple varsity letters across several sports.

Mowry continued his education at St. Ambrose University, earning a bachelor's degree in

physical education in 1984. While at St. Ambrose, Mowry served as a student assistant coach for the women's basketball program for three years. Mowry earned a master's degree in teaching from Western New Mexico University, where he also served as a graduate assistant coach for the men's basketball team.

Mowry began a collegiate coaching career at the University of Indianapolis, serving as

head men's tennis coach and graduate assistant coach for men's basketball. In 1989, the tennis team won the Great Lakes Valley Conference championship, and Mowry was named conference coach of the year. During that time, Mowry also served as assistant men's basketball coach at DePauw University.

In 1989, Mowry became head men's basketball coach at St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida, setting a school record for single-season wins and leading the team to the NAIA Region 15 championship game. After one year at Miami Dade College-South, Mowry spent nine seasons as an assistant coach at the University of Central Florida, helping the program reach its first two NCAA Tournament appearances. Following one season at Elon University, Mowry became head men's basketball coach at Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida.

During 21 seasons at Santa Fe College, Mowry became the program's all-time leader in career wins with 384, captured five conference championships, and was named conference coach of the year five times. Mowry retired from collegiate coaching in 2024 with a career head coaching record of 428-286.

Mowry and his wife, Gail, have two children, Erin and Austin, and a grandson, Benjamin. Mowry is the son of the late Bob and Betty Mowry, and he remains connected to the game through volunteer coaching.

## Alumni Achievement Award

### Kate Kedley

Kate Kedley is a 1996 graduate of North Cedar High School. At Clarence-Lowden and North Cedar, Kedley was involved in basketball, cross country, track, and softball, as well as band, choir and speech. A member of the



1995-96 Knights girls' basketball state runner-up team, Kedley also competed on multiple state-qualifying track and field relay teams.

Kedley earned a bachelor's degree in English education and

driver education in 2000 from the University of Northern Iowa. A master's degree in English and professional writing followed in 2005 at Northern Arizona University. In 2017, Kedley earned a doctorate from the University of Iowa in language, literacy, and culture and gender, women, and sexuality studies.

Kedley spent 10 years teaching secondary English language arts in Yuma, Arizona, and Honduras. From 2006 to 2009, and again for most of 2015, Kedley lived in Honduras as a legal permanent resident, teaching at Escuela Internacional La Lima while conducting research related to doctoral studies. During this time, Kedley also served as an international election observer in Honduras.

Since September 2017, Kedley has been a faculty member at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey, serving as a tenured associate professor of reading. Professional responsibilities include teaching undergraduate and graduate courses and conducting research in literacy education, teacher preparation, bilingual education, English education, young adult literature, and LGBTQ issues in schools.

Kedley has authored and co-authored numerous peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and scholarly publications and has presented work at education and literacy conferences worldwide.

Kedley has provided expert witness testimony in U.S. immigration courts in more than 20 cases, supporting LGBTQ individuals seeking asylum from Honduras. Kedley also supports public school teachers in Honduras protesting the country's authoritarian government.

Kedley is the child of Pat and Peg Kedley of Lowden, and children include Boris, Kaiser, and Malachy.

**THANK YOU to the  
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Alumni Awards and Reception.**

**Applications for the 2026-27 North Cedar Alumni Awards are due Sept. 15, 2026.  
The nomination form is available at [www.north-cedar.org](http://www.north-cedar.org)**