



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Location corrected.**

# **THREE NEBRASKA EDUCATORS RECEIVE FRIEND OF AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION AWARDS**

Three Nebraska educators recently received the Friend of American Indian Education Award at the annual Native American Education Symposium in Wayne.

In honor of their recent or forthcoming retirements, the awards were presented to:

- Mary Ann Losh, former state administrator of the Equity/Diversity and Instructional Strategies Team at the Nebraska Department of Education
- Sandra Ostrand, retired administrator from Walthill Public Schools
- John Mangen, retired music teacher from Omaha Nation Public Schools

Each recipient was selected for their long-term service to schools in Northeast Nebraska and for their dedication to advocating for Nebraska's American Indian students. Their combined years of service to education exceeded 125 years. The recipients also were selected for collectively promoting best practices in the education of American Indian students, quality family/community engagement and relationship building. In their own way, each recipient inspired others to pursue high school graduation and entrance into the teaching profession, working tirelessly for the overall betterment of the education of American Indian students.

The Friend of American Indian Education Award was established in 2008 when former Commissioner Emeritus Doug Christensen of the Nebraska Department of Education received the award. The Friend of American Indian Education Award has been given to 14 individuals since then.

The Office of Native American Education initiated the award to honor those who have promoted American Indian Education in Nebraska. Individuals who have shown dedication in one or more of the following areas are considered:

- Promoting use of tribal language or culture in the education of American Indian students in Nebraska.

- Promoting school improvement efforts for quality education of American Indian students through continuous school improvement practices.
- Promoted the increase of American Indian educators in schools that serve American Indian students.
- Produced or promoted curriculum that focuses on accurate and authentic instruction about American Indians for both Native and non-Native students.
- Promoted the use of best practices in the education of American Indian students.
- Promoted quality family/community engagement programs for the improvement of the education of American Indian students.
- Worked for the overall betterment of the education of American Indian students.