



## CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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### **CCSD recognizes 12 for extraordinary impact on education** *Educators, community members inducted into Excellence in Education Hall of Fame*

**LAS VEGAS** – A community organization and eleven individuals earned recognition from the Clark County School District (CCSD) for exceptional and lasting contributions to educational excellence in public schools. During the Nov. 14 meeting of the Board of School Trustees, a ceremony inducted the group into CCSD's Excellence in Education Hall of Fame.

This year's award recipients include community members:

- Clarice Donnelly, The Public Education Foundation
- Linda S. Johnson, Nevada Parent Teacher Association
- The Josh Stevens Foundation, Drew and Barbara Stevens

CCSD employees earning the award include:

- Barbara Agostini, Boulder City High School
- Florence Barker, Turnaround Zone
- Carrie Buck, C. T. Sewell Elementary School
- Maureen Fox, Management Processes
- Jeffrey Hinton, Northwest Career and Technical Academy
- Sally Jost, Health Services
- James F. McEvoy, Durango High School
- Brandon Moeller, Equity & Diversity Education Department
- Kimberly S. Wooden, Educational and Operational Excellence Unit

The honorees join more than 200 hall of fame members whose names appear in a display at the Edward A. Greer Education Center. The Board of Trustees initiated the Excellence in Education

Hall of Fame in 1987. The nomination and blind judging process takes place each fall to recognize winners in conjunction with American Education Week, which celebrates public education during the third week of November.

Information about each of the honorees' contributions to education and other events planned for American Education Week may be viewed online at [ccsd.net](http://ccsd.net).

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## Excellence in Education Hall of Fame 2013

### Barbara Agostini

**Barbara Agostini** is the registrar and counselors' secretary at Boulder City High School. She also serves as the vice president of the Community Education Advisory Board and the Boulder City High School Cheer coach, and she has been an active community leader in Boulder City for over 15 years. She is honored today for being a beacon of support to students, colleagues, and the Boulder City Community. She is a critical link between the Boulder City community and the students and staff of Boulder City High School. She helps connect Boulder City High School student volunteers with community groups in need of services. She is a source of support for students and staff, who look to her for guidance. She promotes positive behavior for students, which supports their engagement and success in school. Her impact was recently made evident by her election, by the student body voting through donations to charity, as the Boulder City High School Staff Homecoming Queen last year. For these reasons and so many more, Barbara Agostini receives this award.

### Florence Barker

**Dr. Florence Barker** currently serves as the director of the school improvement grant for the Turnaround Zone. Dr. Barker piloted the first turnaround initiative that later became the Turnaround Zone due to its success. She works with administrators and instructional coaches to ensure that schools are provided with the help they needed to implement research-based and peer-reviewed best practices to improve student achievement. She is committed to helping improve the education and lives of at-risk students. She has worked with the Communities in Schools program to provide students with clothing, food, hygiene products, bus passes, tutoring services and educational support, and even furniture, so students are able to come to school and focus on learning. Dr. Barker has been nationally recognized for her contributions and work with the Archie Manor Housing Projects. She was honored in Washington, D.C., as the recipient of the Community Hero award. With her help, the low income housing projects now have multiple learning centers where students can access the Internet, have a quiet place to meet and study, and continue experiencing increased academic success.

### Carrie Buck

**Dr. Carrie Buck** is the principal of C.T. Sewell Elementary School. As a result of Dr. Buck's vision and leadership, the staff of C.T. Sewell Elementary are committed to a culture of care and excellence for all students and continue to focus on "putting kids first." Dr. Buck's leadership has transformed the culture of C.T. Sewell into one of academic rigor, collaboration, parent participation, community involvement, and empowerment of all stakeholders. She focuses on motivating staff, building

confidence, and helping teachers increase their efficacy. The continuous support, communication, and involvement from the entire school community, i.e. administrators, teachers, parents, and community partners lead to the personal and academic success of all students. Dr. Buck's leadership style is based on the premise of caring for people, encouraging best practice, eliciting support, and communicating the rigorous vision to all stakeholders.

### **Clarice Donnelly**

**Clarice Donnelly** has served students of the Clark County School district for over 36 years and currently serves as the Scholarship Plus Counselor for the Public Education Foundation. As a middle school counselor, Clarice was a supportive mentor to 500 students annually. She served as a mentor and a positive role model for student teachers and those new to the counseling profession in our district. As the Scholarship Plus counselor for the Public Education Foundation, she meets with donors to establish new scholarships. She began her involvement with the Public Education Foundation as a scholarship donor, along with her daughters, in 2003 when her husband (a fellow CCSD educator) passed away unexpectedly. After working as a donor, she decided to use her personal experience to benefit future scholarship donors and recipients. She also oversees the "We Are Community" program, which provides a year-long leadership and community service opportunity to 16 high schools, involving students with various non-profit groups through service and donations.

### **Maureen Fox**

**Maureen Fox** has dedicated herself entirely to the Clark County School District over the past 14 years. She has served in the Board of School Trustee Office and the Superintendent's Office, always representing the District well to all levels of employees and community members, from parents to business leaders to elected officials. Maureen has focused on raising the level of excellence throughout the District. She initiated and guided the Management Process System, which changed the way the District looked at Return on Investment by tracking taxpayer dollars for effectiveness and impact on student achievement. She also has helped guide the Board of Trustees' governing policies, working closely with trustees to develop a system to best serve the vision of the Board. She is an expert on emergency management, building administration, board-superintendent relations and much, much more. There are many "behind the scenes" employees who keep our District going with little recognition and Maureen Fox is certainly a hidden gem.

### **Jeffrey Hinton**

**Jeffrey Hinton**, a National Board-Certified U.S. History teacher at the Northwest Career and Technical Academy, is completely devoted to his profession and his students. He is known for constantly learning and seeking improvement in teaching through research and study. His professionalism is illustrated in the academic achievement of his students, with an 86.9% U.S. History AP pass rate in 2013, compared with the national average of 54%. These results have improved each year as he uses this data to perfect his approach to this difficult subject. Students in his classes learn to think critically, to collaborate, and to debate. He is a mentor to veteran and new teachers, to administrators, and to students. He also teaches at Nevada State College and volunteers for a number of community groups. He truly views his career as a profession.

### **Linda Johnson**

**Linda Johnson** has dedicated much of her life to supporting education and serving in numerous ways to benefit students of Clark County School District and the state of Nevada. In 1996, when her children began attending Derfelt Elementary School, she joined the school's Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) board. For the next 17 years she volunteered in several PTA positions, from chairing various PTA committees at her school to accepting leadership assignments on the Lake Mead Council – serving as vice president and president – to most recently serving as the Region IV Director of the Nevada PTA Board of Managers. Linda tirelessly works to promote diversity and inclusion as well as parent engagement. The influence she has had on improving public education should not be underestimated and the number of parents she has assisted and encouraged to get involved has impacted a countless number of students. If the nation had more people like Linda Johnson, we would be the education leaders of the world.

### **Sally Jost**

**Sally Jost** is a dedicated administrator who oversees CCSD's Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech and Language Services, Health Services and Psychological Services departments. She supervises approximately 840 personnel who provide direct services to over 14,000 at-risk students. Throughout her tenure, she has worked to develop specialized, in-depth knowledge in both mental health and related services. She has truly being a "lifesaver": When a colleague was having a seizure, she quickly administered emergency medical procedures which likely saved his life. Ms. Jost trains employees to make sure other lives can be saved as well. She is in charge of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program, training teams at sites throughout the District to use emergency apparatus in the event someone is having a heart attack. Twice during the 2012-2013 school year, this training proved invaluable as the AED was used during a crisis and ultimately saved a life. The reach of her leadership over programs that support students with special needs is wide and deep.

## **James McEvoy**

**Lt. Col. James F. McEvoy**, USAF (Ret), is the ROTC instructor at Durango High School. His superior Air Force JROTC programs have been in existence in CCSD for 23 years. He engages all of his cadets and has turned around many in danger of falling through the cracks. The goals of his program each year is for all his cadets to graduate prepared for college and as good citizens for America. It is not by luck that his program has produced 3 National Merit Finalists, 22 military academy appointments, and over 60 four-year ROTC college scholarships. He has been directly responsible for keeping his cadets in school and has produced 100% graduation rates for many years. One young man, who is now a Navy lieutenant, says he was starting down the wrong road when he began high school. He joined ROTC on a whim and because Lt. Col. McEvoy challenged him to try and supported him in his efforts, today this young man is in a U.S. Navy nuclear submarine under the Pacific Ocean.

## **Brandon Moeller**

**Brandon Moeller** is an Assistant Director in the Equity and Diversity Department. Since 1998, Brandon L. Moeller has demonstrated career excellence through his involvement in a number of school-based, districtwide, and national events. Some of his many accomplishments over the years include working with neglected and abused children at Child Haven, writing grants and obtaining donations totaling over \$3.2 million, and co-writing Jo Mackey Magnet Elementary School's Leadership Curriculum Framework. Additionally, Mr. Moeller was awarded Teacher of the Year, was a recipient of a number CCSD Rave Reviews, wrote a research project to increase recruitment and retention of cadets for the Clark County School District's Police Department, increased tutorial services for eligible American Indian/Alaskan Native students, and provided districtwide trainings in the area of cultural competency and bullying prevention and intervention. His work with children in poverty throughout the Las Vegas valley has impacted countless students, parents, community members and Clark County School District staff.

## **The Josh Stevens Foundation, Drew and Barbara Stevens**

The **Josh Stevens Foundation**, founded by Drew and Barbara Stevens, in its four and a half years in existence, has not only brought kindness to over 300 school campuses nationwide, but also has consistently demonstrated kindness in our community and beyond. When Drew and Barbara Stevens lost their son, Josh, in a tragic accident, they founded the Josh Stevens Foundation in his honor. Josh was an extraordinary person, known for being kind. The foundation celebrates acts of kindness, particularly among children. Students receive a silicone "Be Kind" bracelet

on a kindness card when they are caught being kind. The Be Kind message has spread to schools, businesses, and youth organizations throughout the nation.

### **Kim Wooden**

If the answer to the question, "Is it good for kids?," is "YES," **Kim Wooden** is all in. Serving the Clark County School District for over 20 years, Deputy Superintendent Wooden has responsibility for providing assistance to support schools and departments serving special education, gifted, and preschool students as well as supervising services to schools for children in poverty. She also supports numerous operational departments that provide everything from transportation to health services for all students. As a teacher, she was committed to finding resources to meet her student's needs. During her role as an Assistant Principal on Special Assignment, Ms. Wooden coordinated over 400 after school, intercession, and summer school programs for elementary students. Now in her role as Deputy Superintendent, she is focused on advancing student achievement through better results and a more service-oriented culture. Ms. Wooden's legacy will be her work with diverse populations in urban settings and better serving students and their families. She is a committed educator, a leader, and a mentor who challenges us all to be the best we can be for all CCSD students.

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