



Southwest Allen County Schools

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For Immediate Release

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SACS Educator Named Midwest Physical Education Teacher of the Year *Woodside teacher up for national SHAPE America honor.*

FORT WAYNE, IND., October 19, 2015 — Southwest Allen County Schools is proud to announce that Woodside Middle School teacher Donna Hazelett has been named Midwest District Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the Society of Health and Physical Educators. The veteran teacher will now vie for SHAPE America's National Physical Education Teacher of the Year award.

“Donna is a great example of the kind of dedicated and committed teachers we have at Southwest Allen County Schools,” Superintendent Dr. Philip G. Downs says. “Donna inspires all of us through her hard work and passion for kids, fitness, and our profession. Most importantly, we are proud of how she listens to kids and puts them in the center of all that she does.”

Now in her 30th year of teaching, Hazelett currently teaches physical and health education at Woodside Middle School.

“Donna has dedicated herself to her students, and her lessons carry beyond the walls of the classroom and the length of the school day,” Woodside Principal Jerry Schillinger says. “She carefully plans each lesson so students understand its purpose and the value of creating a healthy lifestyle. She emphasizes sportsmanship and other life skills essential for our students to learn and live by.”

Both honored and humbled by this most recent honor, Hazelett said it is the interactions she’s had with students that she values most.

“While teaching for SACS, they have provided an opportunity for me to stay educated and knowledgeable on the most current educational techniques and trends while researching, planning, and executing a lesson plan,” she says. “Having the opportunity to see how my lessons have shaped students is the most important reward I’ve received over my 30 years as an educator.”

Hazelett received her bachelor’s degree from the University of St. Francis and her master’s degree from Indiana University-Purdue University Ft. Wayne. She also serves as the volunteer county coordinator for Special Olympics Allen County.

Hazelett will represent SACS and the entire Midwest region at the SHAPE America National Convention where the National Physical Education Teacher of the Year award will be announced this April. The SHAPE America Teacher of the Year awards are given in recognition of outstanding teaching performance and the ability to motivate today’s youth to participate in a lifetime of physical activity.

About Southwest Allen County Schools

Nationally recognized and locally known for its award-winning programs, high-quality staff, and strong parental and community support, [Southwest Allen County Schools](#) is dedicated to a shared mission of preparing today’s learners for tomorrow’s opportunities.

About SHAPE America

Since its founding in 1885, the [Society of Health and Physical Educators](#) has been committed to ensuring all children have the opportunity to lead healthy, physically active lives. SHAPE America works with its 50 state affiliates and national partners to support initiatives such as the Presidential Youth Fitness Program, Let’s Move! Active Schools and the Jump Rope for Heart/Hoops for Heart programs.

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