



For Immediate Release

Media Contact:
Emily Richwine
Director of District Communications
(260) 431-2016
erichwine@sacs.k12.in.us

SACS Educator Named Top Four Finalist for National Teacher of the Year
Woodside Middle School's Donna Hazelett selected for top honor from SHAPE America.

FORT WAYNE, IND., December 18, 2015 — Southwest Allen County Schools is proud to announce that Woodside Middle School teacher Donna Hazelett has advanced to the Top Four for SHAPE America's National Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year.

“Donna Hazelett is a great example both of and to the teachers of Southwest Allen County Schools,” Superintendent Dr. Philip G. Downs says. “Her commitment to her students, their health and well-being, as well as to the profession of teaching is inspiring. We are so proud of her and wish her luck.”

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

“She is an extremely talented educator who serves our students in many ways,” Woodside Principal Jerry Schillinger says. “ Her lessons in health and wellness carry beyond the walls of the classroom and the length of the school day. She is very deserving of this honor day, and we couldn't be more proud of her.”

Preparing today's learners for tomorrow's opportunities.

EMILY RICHWINE ♦ DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS
4824 Homestead Road ♦ Fort Wayne, Indiana 46814 ♦ (260) 431-2016 ♦ erichwine@sacs.k12.in.us

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 in 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.

###