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BICE NAMED EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

April 8, 2014

More than 130 people were in attendance as Cynthia Bice, EdD, Dean of the Lindenwood University School of Education, accepted the Educator of the Year Award from the St. Louis Association of Secondary School Principals (SLASSP) on April 3 during an awards ceremony at Syberg's in Maryland Heights, Mo. She is the only higher education professional to ever receive the award.

Nominations for the SLASSP awards were accepted in the following categories: Educator of the Year, Consummate Professional of the Year, High School Principal of the Year, Middle School Principal of the Year, Assistant High School Principal of the Year, Assistant Middle School Principal of the Year, and Exemplary New Principal. One winner from each category was selected by members of the association's Executive Board.



Bice was nominated as Educator of the Year by Ed Gettemeier, principal of Hardin Middle School and current SLASSP president. He surprised Bice with a personal presentation of the award on March 11 at Lindenwood, praising her for her tireless work in the larger education community and for her commitment to strengthening the relationship between the university and SLASSP.

"Dr. Bice has been instrumental in building a partnership with the St. Louis Association of Secondary School Principals," he said. "The result has been a remarkable amount of quality professional development offered to practicing St. Louis administrators at Lindenwood University."

Bice said she was humbled to be the first higher education award recipient and thankful for the tremendous support she's received.

"I could not help but think of my dad, who was the best principal I have ever known and the driving force behind my desire to fortify and continually improve our principal program as the best in the state and nation. This feat could not be accomplished if it were not for all of the great colleagues who work with me on a daily basis."

Bice joined Lindenwood University in 2006 after having served seven years in higher education and 17 years in public school education in various capacities. She has received many prestigious awards throughout her career, including the VIP Award and the Pearl School Award from the Missouri Commissioner of Education, the Ten Year Honor Award from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Employee of the Year Award from Francis Howell School District. In addition, she was named Most Influential Teacher by the Rolla High School National Honor Society. In 2011, Bice also was given the Beyond the Best Award, which honors individuals who have made distinctive contributions to the region through outstanding corporate and civic leadership.

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) bestowed upon Bice a commendation letter for her work in preparing Lindenwood's Doctor of Education degree program proposal, and also requested permission to use her prepared proposal as an example for other university programs pursuing doctoral degree programs.


Bice also received a letter of commendation from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regarding her preparation for the university's MoSTEP accreditation evaluation, citing her leadership in demonstrating and establishing a new level of excellence in developing documentation, reporting results, and hosting a review. DESE also asked permission to use her prepared accreditation documents as an example when training other programs for accreditation evaluations.

Pictured: Kelly Stearns, Anita Hoeffner, Tameka Moore, Ed Gettemeier, Cynthia Bice, James D. Evans, Deb Ayres, Terry Stewart, and Lynda Leavitt at Lindenwood University.

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