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Wednesday, April 2, 2025

5 - 8:30 p.m. | Oneida Casino Hotel





#### Congratulations TO THE RECIPIENTS



Shawna Fischer Holy Family Catholic School G.R.A.C.E.



Corey Hansen Parkview Middle School Ashwaubenon School District



**Amy Heusterberg-Richards** Bay Port High School Howard-Suamico School District



Brianna Kehoe Pulaski Community Middle School Pulaski Community School District



Jason M. Krings Southwest High School Green Bay Area Public Schools



Davi Ann Mueller Ashwaubenon High School Ashwaubenon School District



Dena Scheiwe Beaumont Elementary School Green Bay Area Public Schools



**Scott Stromberger** Edison Middle School Green Bay Area Public Schools

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The Golden Apple Awards honors Donald J. Long, Sr., founder of Imperial Supplies, who was inspired to create the event after attending a teacher recognition ceremony in Florida in 1986. Upon his return to Green Bay, he worked diligently, securing sponsors and launching the first Golden Apple Awards in 1994. This event, televised locally in partnership with FOX II, remains a unique nationwide recognition event. Though Mr. Long passed away in 2008, his legacy endures through each Golden Apple Awards ceremony. Thank you, Mr. Long, for your inspirational leadership!

#### CONGRATULATIONS, GOLDEN APPLE AWARD RECIPIENTS.

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## **Shawna Fischer**Holy Family Catholic School



#### **BY KRIS LEONHARDT** SENIOR EDITOR

GREEN BAY – Holy Family Catholic School's Shawna Fischer grew up in Sheboygan Falls.

"After high school, I attended the UW-Green Bay, where I earned my bachelor's degree in education. I graduated in the winter of 2018 and was a substitute teacher in the Plymouth School District. Following graduation, I moved back home to Sheboygan Falls. In the summer of 2019 I was hired at Christ Child Academy in Sheboygan and spent three years there teaching second grade. I loved every minute of second grade, I have very fond memories of those years, as well as the students and staff who touched my life and shaped who I am as an educator," Fischer said.

"I met my husband, Eric, while I was living in Sheboygan. He was a friend from college. We chose to settle in Green Bay as a middle ground between our hometowns

— he's from Gillett, and I'm from Sheboygan Falls. In 2022, I was lucky enough to have been hired at Holy Family. I truly enjoy each and every student I have the pleasure of teaching. Their unique personalities and experiences make every year rewarding and fulfilling."

Fischer said that teaching has been her passion for as long as she can recall.

"As a child, I would beg my older sisters to play school with me — under the strict condition that I got to be the teacher. This did not often go well.

"I would spend my school days observing my teachers' strategies, then rush home to replicate those same techniques with my stuffed animals, complete with a carefully arranged seating chart on my bedroom floor. That early enthusiasm grew into a career dedicated to fostering that same love of learning in my students."

She finds that every educator brings their own personality,

passions and teaching style, creating an environment that is truly one of a kind.

"My classroom is a direct reflection of who I am and the space I strive to create a second home where students feel safe, valued and encouraged. It is a place filled with heart, creativity and connection, where students are empowered to take risks, collaborate, and grow. Mistakes are seen as learning opportunities, teamwork is essential, and every student is recognized and appreciated," she explained.

"What also makes my classroom unique is the diverse blend of students who walk through its doors each year. Each learner has different needs, strengths and ways of understanding the world, and my classroom evolves to meet them where they are. It is a dynamic, inclusive space that adapts to the students within it, ensuring that every individual feels supported and inspired to succeed."



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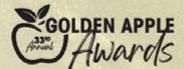
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#### **Corey Hansen**

Parkview Middle School



#### **BY KRIS LEONHARDT** SENIOR EDITOR

GREEN BAY – "I always loved school, and can still vividly remember some of my elementary school experiences and favorite teachers I had along the way. My father was a machine tool instructor at the local technical college, so I grew up around teaching and tools," recalled Parkview Middle School Teacher Corey Hansen.

"My dad and my mom have definitely been my greatest teachers and mentors in my life. My mom always encouraged me to become a teacher, and I am glad she did that because I love my job. Two of my uncles and my sister became teachers too, so I guess you can say it is in my blood to teach."

Hansen attended UW-Eau Claire, where he earned a degree in elementary education and mathematics.

"When I graduated from UW-Eau Claire, I initially worked as a substitute teacher. It's funny that my first sub job was to be a middle school tech ed teacher, because now I'm a middle school STEM Instructor who teaches tech ed. Things often come full circle, I guess," he said.

"After teaching a couple of years, I attended graduate school at UW-Madison and earned a masters degree in library and information science. I was hired by the Ashwaubenon School District and worked as a library media specialist for 17 years. During that time, I felt a pull to work in computer science or technology education. I ended up being able to do both when our middle school, Parkview, had an opening for a 6-8 STEM instructor that I was hired into. Now I teach computer science, digital citizenship and technology education coursework as part of our engineering and technology department. I love it that all of our students get exposed to these subjects and can broaden their educational and career perspectives in areas they might not encounter otherwise.

"As a teacher, part of my job is to believe in my students and support them. One of the most influential things in my own career has been the support of those around me, especially my wife, Lisa. My teaching path has changed a few times, and has always involved long discussions with her before deciding what to do.

Hansen said that his classroom is

fairly unique at Parkview.

"It is one of two classrooms set up to teach technology education courses, which means that I have equipment like a 3D printer and laser cutter for student use. I am the only person teaching my subject matter, so the experiences students have in my classroom are also unique. I teach computer science, digital citizenship and digital electronics.

"My room is the 'light up, blinky, loud classroom.' We learn about things like computational thinking, computer programming, wiring circuits, LED lights, making sound effects, robots, and servo motors.

"My shelves are filled with former student projects to inspire the current classes and let them see what is possible. My classes are as much about failure as success, because when you are creating something new like a computer program or a prototype engineering project there are no instructions to follow. Failure is part of the road to completion in the engineering design process, so kids learn to deal with bumps along the learning road and how to problem solve on their own."

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#### "Congratulations to the 2025 Golden Apple Recipients"







## **Brianna Kehoe**Pulaski Community Middle School



#### BY KRIS LEONHARDT SENIOR EDITOR

GREEN BAY – Brianna Kehoe grew up in Hobart and attended Pulaski Community Middle School.

"I went on to major in biology and business with a minor in chemistry at St. Norbert College," Kehoe said. "Immediately after graduating from St. Norbert College, I enrolled into their education program. In January of 2004 I began my teaching career with Green Bay Public Schools. Just a few years into my teaching career I completed my masters in education.

"Making my way back to Pulaski to teach was always a long term goal of mine. My husband and I established our home and family in the Pulaski School District early on. In August of 2022, I was offered a teaching position with Pulaski Community School District and the timing was right. My first year in Pulaski I got to teach my son; that was pretty amazing."

Kehoe comes from a family of 18 educators.

"My dad was a middle school science teacher and my mother was a math professor. Several other aunts, uncles and cousins are also in the field of education," she explained.

"They modeled for me what true greatness in the classroom looks like. Their dedication to the profession shaped me into who I am as an educator.

"Fun fact, at one point in my teaching career there were three other teachers and one student that I was related to in the school."

Kehoe said what makes her

classroom unique is "the energy and passion that I bring every day."

"I am thrilled to share my science knowledge with my students and find it works best by 'doing' science. Just in the next few weeks we have frog dissections, the Medical College of Wisconsin students coming with human organs, a field trip to Urban Air in which we will conduct a lab related to the respiratory and circulatory systems and two epic engineering challenges," she added.

"In one challenge students design and build a working prosthetic hand and in the other they design and build a medical device to clear plaque from the inside of arteries. On a daily basis I want them to leave my classroom liking science a little more than when they walked in."



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## Congratulations to the Golden Apple Award Recipients

Press ITMES



**Jason M. Krings**Southwest High School



#### BY KRIS LEONHARDT SENIOR EDITOR

GREEN BAY – Jason M. Krings grew up in Green Bay and attended East High School.

He later graduated from UW-Green Bay with a degree in urban and regional studies.

"I went back to school at UW-Madison and received my teaching degree. I've worked at Southwest (High School) since 2003 and currently lead the National History Day Program and co-advise student council," Krings said.

"The most influential person in my life that has gotten me to where I am is my wife, Joleen. She's my biggest cheerleader and is my sounding board if I'm struggling with anything at work or in life. She's always calm, full of wisdom and laughs. She helps me not take myself too seriously. After talking with her, my confidence is usually restored and I feel like I can face another day or challenge."

Krings is a social studies teachers and has been an educator for over two decades.

Krings said that some of his most influential events that have occurred in his teaching career are "how students responded to some difficult situations in my family's personal lives."

"It taught me very quickly that teaching is so much more than daily lessons, content coverage and grading. The love, care and compassion that my students have shown throughout the years have taught me the importance of connecting to students on their level, building relationships, and caring for others. I try to remember to do this as much as possible," he said.

"One thing that has helped me to become successful is my desire to build connections with all students. This starts out with greeting my students, by name, each day when they walk in my door. I use questioning to facilitate class discussions and want to help my students develop their own voice and confidence that their ideas matter. I continually invite them to come in if they are struggling and always have an open door. I feel that if they see someone helping them out that they will return that favor to others in their own lives.

"I also am willing to find new activities to use with my students both inside and outside of the classroom. For example, I developed and lead an historical walking tour of downtown Green Bay, have worked with the Brown County Library to provide access to primary sources unavailable at Southwest, implemented the Harvard Case Study for Democracy Program, and the Hamilton Education Program. For the last 18 years I have helped hundreds of students participate in National History Day where dozens of students have advanced to the state and national competition."

#### "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

-Nelson Mandela



The Schneider Foundation is proud to recognize and support the area's outstanding teachers and school leaders who are this year's Golden Apple recipients.







## There in moments that matter

We join the Greater Green Bay Chamber in recognizing the Golden Apple Award winners and nominees for providing quality education in our communities. Thank you for making a difference.

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#### **Davi Ann Mueller**

Ashwaubenon High School



#### BY KRIS LEONHARDT SENIOR EDITOR

GREEN BAY – Ashwaubenon High School's Davi Ann Mueller grew up in the Green Bay area.

After high school, she moved to Milwaukee but later came back to Green Bay to "be with family."

"I attended UW-Milwaukee as an undergraduate, where I dual majored in English and secondary education. I have my masters from Viterbo University and additional certification from Marian University. I have filled multiple roles in my career, from college-level English courses to working as an EBD (Emotional and Behavioral Disorders) teacher, but all of my roles have been focused on helping students who need more support, whether it may be academic or any other facet of their lives," Mueller said.

"I am very proud to be an interventionist at Ashwaubenon High School, where I can flex my literature and writing skills, while also working with students who are at risk due to multiple reasons. I love working with students who need an alternative path in education, because we are all so different and no one fits one single lane in life. I absolutely love teaching and helping others find their individual paths to success."

Mueller said that she has a nontraditional classroom, serving as both an interventionist as well as teaching alternative education.

"I know my students. We spend a lot of time working together to build positive relationships and establish classroom norms and boundaries. If a student does not feel welcomed, loved, accepted and supported, they are not able to be themselves and thrive. That is doubly true for students who have additional struggles in life and academics, especially for the barriers that aren't easily seen or able to be figured out," she explained.

"I spend time not only working to support the student as a whole, but also use my experience from being in a variety of roles to figure out where the academic and life struggles may be coming from and what we can do to work with those struggles. It isn't just working harder or doing what is told by a teacher. Often, my students have real life barriers keeping them from focusing on their success. We focus on how to problem solve around those barriers and be the best version of ourselves on our own unique life paths."



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# TEACHERS OF Wistinction

Congratulations to the individuals selected as Teachers of Distinction. These outstanding teachers make a big impact on the students, parents and our community.

#### Algoma School District

Danielle Schultz, Algoma Elementary School

#### <u>Ashwaubenon School District</u>

Autumn DeCleene, Cormier School & Early Learning Center Connor Drevs, Valley View Elementary School Corey Hansen, Parkview Middle School Davi Ann Mueller, Ashwaubenon High School Taylor Ratzburg, Pioneer Elementary School Ellen Sauve-Moon, Ashwaubenon High School

#### **Green Bay Area Public Schools**

Carolyn Bicoy, Danz Elementary School
Emily Drain, Martin Elementary School
Jillian Feldhausen, Preble High School
Jason M. Krings, Southwest High School
Samantha Lemens, Nicolet Elementary School
Jillian Lipp, Preble High School
Karen McGrath, East High School
Brandon Quinn, East High School
Martha Ramirez Agudelo, Jackson Elementary School
Dena Scheiwe, Beaumont Elementary School
Scott Stromberger, Edison Middle School
Samantha Thoresen, Red Smith School
Sarah Valentine, Red Smith School
Alevya Zoll, Fort Howard Elementary School

#### G.R.A.C.E.

**Shawna Fischer,** Holy Family Catholic School **Raven Lambert,** Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School

#### **Howard-Suamico School District**

Amy Heusterberg-Richards, Bay Port High School Lauren Holum, Bay Harbor Elementary School Adam Korber, Lineville Intermediate School Miranda Listle, Suamico Elementary School

#### Notre Dame De La Baie Academy

Tina Harpold, Notre Dame De La Baie Academy

#### Providence Academy

Amy Schwarz, Providence Academy

#### Pulaski Community School District

**Ashley Hastings,** Sunnyside Elementary School **Brianna Kehoe,** Pulaski Community Middle School **Amy Tubbs,** Pulaski High School **Krystal White,** Glenbrook Elementary School

#### Seymour Community School District

Amanda Blough, Rock Ledge Primary Center

#### St. Clare Catholic School - Wrightstown

Cathy DeGroot, St. Clare Catholic School

#### Syble Hopp School - De Pere

Megan Fry, Syble Hopp School

#### **Unified School District of De Pere**

**Emma Reabe,** Heritage Elementary School **Amanda Sutter,** Susie C. Altmayer Elementary School

#### **Wrightstown School District**

**Amy Recob,** Wrightstown High School



#### Amy Heusterberg-Richards

Bay Port High School



#### BY KRIS LEONHARDT SENIOR EDITOR

GREEN BAY – Amy Heusterberg-Richards grew up in Howards Grove — the granddaughter of a teacher.

"My late, maternal grandma, Helen Schulz, taught in a rural, one-room schoolhouse near Plymouth and later wrote books about such. (We share that journey too; a picture of her hangs behind my desk.) I was always drawn to teaching as a career in my youth. In kindergarten, I would 'assign' playground activities to my peers at recess; they listened, but my teacher warned my parents I'd have to change my ways to keep friends," she recalled

"In late elementary school, I'd play 'school' with the neighborhood kids in my childhood backyard, etc... Teaching was always the professional calling for me, but in my late adolescence and early adulthood I tried hard to ignore it."

Heusterberg-Richards started

college at St. Norbert thinking she was on a path to English/pre-Law, but joined the secondary education program "just in case."

"Ultimately, four years later, I student-taught. loved it, and stopped studying for the LSATs. Just before college graduation, I took a job at Bay Port and have been here in the ELA Department for the almost-two-decades since.

"I married my college sweetheart, Lucas, and we're raising our two children, Cael and Evelyn, in Allouez."

Over a decade ago, Heusterberg-Richards was asked to teach English Literature in Bay Port's new International Baccalaureate (IB) department.

"The International Baccalaureate program is similar to the AP program in that both offer students the option to take college-level courses in high school (for potential credit). IB places unique emphasis on student collaboration and

ownership as well as worldly-mindedness (reading translated works, etc.), too. The trainings I attended for/within the IB organization connected me with inspiring educators from around the world and shared with me a global collection of best pedagogical practices," she stated.

"In the time since, I've implemented more experiential and student-empowered approaches in my IB course as well as in my other classes.

"I hope my teaching style blends high expectations and creative, energetic approaches. I try to encourage academic risk-taking and playful experiences with rigorous learning goals.

"We laugh often and work hard in my classroom. I welcome all learners as they authentically are. I listen to student voices. I see the human behind the learner. I'm passionate about education."

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The firm wishes to express our congratulations to all the educators recognized at the Golden Apple Awards, and express our appreciation for the dedication shown by all school faculty, staff, and administrators.



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#### **Dena Scheiwe**

Beaumont Elementary School



#### BY KRIS LEONHARDT SENIOR EDITOR

GREEN BAY — "I grew up in a loving family, and we had a dairy farm. I had daily chores and responsibilities at a young age, which I believe helped build character and a sense of integrity. Throughout my high school and college years, I worked for various YMCAs being a lifeguard and swim instructor and my favorite — a summer camp instructor," recalled Beaumont Elementary Teacher Dena Scheiwe.

"I graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a sociology degree. I didn't really know what I wanted to do as far as a job after graduating. I did know that I enjoyed working with people. I took a job at an adult day service for adults with disabilities. I loved it. I enjoyed taking clients out shopping and to various locations in the community.

"After being there for a year, I had an idea that perhaps working with this population, but at a younger age, I could help make a difference in increasing their skills and level of independence. So I decided to go to UW-Oshkosh for my teaching license for special education. I have been at Beaumont Elementary School for 13 of my 14 years in teaching. It has become my dream job because I love my students (present and former) and the joy they bring to the classroom each day. I feel like I am making a positive impact on their lives and helping them become more independent. I am helping them gain new skills and helping them become the best versions of themselves."

Scheiwe said her classroom comes with "an abundance of fun and joy."

"My students require lots of repetition in order to learn a single skill, so I need to keep it fun and fresh so that they don't get bored and to keep them motivated to learn. I am very hands-on in my approach to learning because the kids need to experience something in order to learn it. They need to do it themselves so they can understand it," she said.

"When I plan lessons, I have to keep in mind the various abilities of each student, their individual goals and what is an appropriate expectation for each student. I also need to be mindful of how each student will be able to access the learning materials due to physical disabilities that some of my students have. I am also mindful of individual students' work styles and behaviors that may hinder them from being able to complete the assignments and find a way for each student to be successful, however that looks for them."

Many of Scheiwe's students stay with her from kindergarten to fifth grade, which allows her to develop a good teacher-student bond with them.

"My classroom is also unique in that I am caring for the whole child. Not only am I providing academic instruction, I am also helping them learn how to communicate, how to interact with others, and do things for themselves. Some of my students are fully dependent on adults to not only move throughout the school environment in their wheelchair, but also take them to the bathroom to change their diaper, connect their feeding tube so they can have lunch at school and change their position throughout the day so they don't get sore.















#### **Scott Stromberger**

Edison Middle School



#### BY KRIS LEONHARDT SENIOR EDITOR

GREEN BAY – "I was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. After high school, I traveled the country working as a fine dining cook. I enjoyed cooking and being a chef, so I moved to New Orleans to hone my skills. In New Orleans, I was mentored by some talented executive chefs in well-regarded French Quarter restaurants," recalled Edison Middle School Teacher Scott Stromberger.

Working at night freed up his days to go to college, where he obtained an associates of general science from Delgado Community College.

"After getting my degree, I moved up to Milwaukee and attended UW-Milwaukee (UWM)," he said. "I received a BS in conservational environmental science From UWM. After getting my degree, I worked as an intern at the Urban Ecology Center (UEC) in Milwaukee. UEC is a well known environmental education center, and I learned the value of giving kids access to natural areas to explore their curiosity of the natural world.

"This internship led to a position in UEC as an community program coordinator where I developed lessons and activities for kids in the neighborhood for our afterschool and weekend programming. This experience with UEC opened my eyes to the value of mentoring kids and teaching important concepts they will need for their future.

"After traveling the country for three years with my future wife. We decided to settle down in the Green Bay area close to her family.

"Knowing that being a chef in Green Bay was not conducive for family life, I went back to school to follow my true passion of teaching and obtained a teaching license in broadfield science. I used this education to get a job at Edison Middle School teaching earth science. I have been at Edison for five years. I love teaching earth science and am always looking for opportunities for students to get outside and explore the natural world.

"I have had many people in my life that have been supportive of the career path I have chosen including my wife and close friends. Having a strong support network in my home life drives me to keep pushing myself to create new ways to engage students in new learning methods. I also want students to be exposed to how amazing our planet really is. Through my travels, I have lived in some amazing natural places. I try to share those experiences with my students and inspire them to get outside and explore the natural areas in their own backyard."





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