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For Immediate Release

Horace Mann and Illinois Principals Association Announce **2024 Illinois Middle School Principal of the Year**

Horace Mann and the Illinois Principals Association are pleased to announce that Allan Davenport, principal of Francis Granger Middle School in Aurora, has been named the 2024 Illinois Middle School Principal of the Year. The award recognizes middle school principals who have demonstrated a positive impact on their students and learning community. Criteria for the award include:

- Demonstrates a positive impact on education and advocacy for children
- Ensures the school climate is positive and reflects high staff and student morale
- Moves actively to implement the goals and objectives of the school
- Works collaboratively with teachers and other staff to improve the educational program and student achievement
- Involves the community in the life of the school and uses community resources for students.

Allan Davenport has served as principal at Granger Middle School for the last 5 years and has spent 13 years as a principal. Davenport has also been active in the Illinois Principals Association as a presenter at the Annual Conference and was previously recognized by his peers as DuPage Region Middle School Principal of the Year in 2023.

On effective school leadership, Davenport believes: “You must be present. Beyond being present for the basic duties of the job, principals must be instructionally present in classrooms with teachers, interactively present with kids, and actively present with parents. I believe being a middle school principal is my mission, and I am present each day to ensure that my teachers can teach to the best of their abilities and that my students can learn and reach their full potential. I give my all to this job and will continue to do so for as long as I am blessed to be a principal.”

“Mr. Davenport is a creative and innovative leader in our district.” said Brad Hillman, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning for Indian Prairie School District 204. “Mr. Davenport is the model of what we should expect from the building principal: student-centered, caring in words and actions with students and staff, a teacher at heart, and a leader that never stops innovating and learning.”

Jason Stipp, principal of Waubonsie Valley High School, shared, “Everything I see and hear of AI represents what the role of the principal should be. AI’s focus on keeping students centered is what makes his work rise above others. He works to create student groups for our most at-risk students by bringing in community partners to better support students and build relations with the community and schools.”

The Middle School Principal of the Year winner was selected from a pool of region nominees provided by the 21 Regions of the Illinois Principals Association. Allan Davenport will be recognized at the IPA’s annual Education Leaders Annual Conference in October 2024.

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The Illinois Principals Association is a leadership organization which serves over 6,500 educational leaders throughout the state of Illinois. You can find out more about the IPA at www.ilprincipals.org. Visit <http://www.ilprincipals.org/about-ipa/awards> for more information about the IPA Principal of the Year Awards Program.

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