Kimberly Lisanby-Barber Named President of the Illinois Principals Association


“With all the changes in education, I am proud to be a member of the IPA.” Lisanby-Barber said. “IPA provides principals with multitudes of support which is very much needed in the changing requirements in public education. IPA works not only within the state of Illinois, but also in partnerships with other state and national organizations. I am very blessed to be in this position being able to work with fellow administrators from across the state and nation. IPA is an essential component of Professional Development in this state and in the nation with the Ed Leaders Network. Providing leadership and being part of this organization is extremely rewarding.”

Lisanby-Barber has been active in the Illinois Principals Association as a former Starved Rock Region Director and State Legislative Chair for the IPA, IPA Congress, and most recently as IPA President Elect (2013-2014). Lisanby-Barber has also presented at the 2011 and 2012 IPA Fall Conferences and Aspiring Principal Workshop. Lisanby-Barber was honored as the 2012 Illinois Elementary School Principal of the Year by the IPA and a National Distinguished Principal from the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). She was a national V.O.I.C.E. winner. Lisanby-Barber is a member of the NAESP, National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the Communication liaison for the Starved Rock area of the Illinois ASCD. Lisanby-Barber represents IPA and the Starved Rock Region on the State Superintendent’s Advisory Committee and the Illinois State Board of Education’s Principal Prep Review Panel. She also serves on the Alliance PAC as a member of the endorsement committee and previously, as interim treasurer.

Lisanby-Barber has served as Principal at Lincoln and John F. Kennedy Schools, in Spring Valley, since 1997. She began her administrative career working in various positions at Ohio Grade and High Schools. Prior to her administrative experience, Lisanby-Barber spent 10 years as an elementary instructor and Speech coach. She has also taught graduate classes for Aurora University and St. Francis University.

“Kim is a leader in a class by herself who possesses the demeanor, expertise and experiences needed by the profession and the Illinois Principals Association. She will help ensure school leaders and their students receive the support they deserve,” said Jason Leahy, Executive Director of the Illinois Principals Association. “Being a former Illinois Elementary School Principal of the Year, as well as sitting on several statewide education-related committees, Kim is the right person for the job.”

Lisanby-Barber resides in Mendota, Illinois with her husband Gary. She has two daughters, Kati (Johnathan) Hagenbuch, a Speech/Language Therapist at Mendota Hospital, and Kari (Daniel) Lutter, an Assistant Principal at Watertown High School. She is a graduate of Oak Lawn Community High School and received a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from North Central College and a Master of Science in Educational Psychology with a cognate of Gifted Education from Northern Illinois University, where she also began her doctorate work in Curriculum and Supervision. Lisanby-Barber obtained her Education Specialist degree in Educational Administration from Western Illinois University, where she is currently completing her Doctorate in Educational Administration.

The Illinois Principals Association is a leadership organization which serves over 4,600 educational leaders throughout the state of Illinois. For more information about the IPA, please visit www.ilprincipals.org.

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