

November 5, 2009

MPS educators honored for dedication to Inclusive Physical Education Instruction

Alan “Bud” Damato and Carrie Paterson receive WAHPERD awards

The Wisconsin Association of Health, Physical Education (P.E.), Recreation and Dance (WAHPERD) recently presented awards to two MPS employees during its statewide conference on Thursday, October 29 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Alan “Bud” Damato, Adaptive P.E. Specialist for the MPS Office of Wellness of Prevention, received the Recognition Award. Carrie Paterson, an Adaptive P.E. teacher at Gaenslen School, was presented with the Teaching Honor Award and the Midwest Adapted P.E. Teacher of the Year award. Both recipients have played a major role in supporting the Special Needs population at MPS.



Carrie Paterson, Adaptive P.E. teacher at Gaenslen School



Alan “Bud” Damato,
Adaptive P.E. Specialist,
MPS Office of Wellness
and Prevention

Damato has worked with MPS since 1980. In his current role, Damato works with physical educators, classroom teachers and administrators to develop lesson plans and activities that are inclusive of all students, including those with disabilities. Among recent accomplishments, Damato helped administer a three-year, \$1.4 million Physical Education for Progress (PEP) grant in twelve MPS schools. He also developed a unique partnership with the Professional Golf Association (PGA). A certified PGA instructor now visits MPS schools on a regular basis to introduce students to golf. The Recognition Award with which he is presented is given as a commendation for continuous and extended service to WAHPERD and to professions represented by WAHPERD. Service is interpreted as organizational activities, publications and research efforts, excellence in teaching and/or administrative activities and enhancement of WAHPERD’s image and reputation among the public.

Having earned the Promising Professional Award in 1987, this is not Paterson's first time to receive a WAHPERD award. For more than 20 years, Paterson has taught at MPS and been responsible for conducting the Adapted P.E. Program. She has mentored many of her peers, supported students with special needs and reinforced their families while offering a caring, energetic and supportive atmosphere for all. The Adapted P.E. Teaching Honor Award received by Paterson is presented to instructors who conduct an appropriate P.E. program as reflected in student individualized education plans, utilize various teaching methods, serve as positive role models, participate in professional development and provide service to individuals with disabilities. Having also received the Midwest Adapted P.E. Teacher of the Year Award, Paterson is now one of six people being considered for the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) Adapted P.E. Teacher of the Year Award. This is the first time a teacher from Wisconsin has been considered for such an honor.

MPS is Wisconsin's largest public school district, serving 85,000 students in 213 schools. District achievement is guided by its *Working Together, Achieving More* strategic plan. For additional information, contact Roseann St. Aubin, MPS Communications Director, at (414) 475-8237.