

## **The Nevada Association of School Boards Presents 2016 Awards and Elects New Officers**

On Saturday evening, November 19, at its Annual Conference held in Reno at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, the Nevada Association of School Boards recognized the achievements and contributions of school board members, teachers, administrators, and others from across the State. In addition, the Association elected new officers for 2016-2017.

***2016 Awards and their recipients include:***

### ***INNOVATIVE EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR (2)***

***This Award recognizes the invaluable service provided to Nevada's children by those individuals who demonstrate their leadership by promoting and implementing innovative programs designed to improve student achievement.***

#### ***Miki Trujillo—Nominated by the Douglas County School District Board of Trustees***

**Ms. Miki Trujillo** was a teacher at ASPIRE (Students Pursuing Integrity, Responsibility, and Education) alternative education program which was created as an educational option for students who had been expelled from Douglas County middle and high schools. She developed ASPIRE as a place for students to grow and thrive both academically and personally. Under her leadership, ASPIRE Academy High School became an accredited high school (with a 92% graduation rate) where any student can choose to enroll and attend along with the students who find this to be their last educational opportunity in Douglas County. Ms. Trujillo has now been promoted to serve as administrator over all of Douglas County School District's alternative education programs: ASPIRE High School, Adult Education, High School Equivalency, and the Youth Adjudication program. Time and again, students have provided testimonials as to how the leadership and support of Ms. Trujillo and her staff have changed their lives. She is truly an innovative and inspirational leader.

#### ***C. J. Fields—Nominated by the Douglas County School District Board of Trustees***

**Mr. C.J. Fields** serves Lyon County's special needs children in a Comprehensive Life Skills (CLS) class and has made a huge, positive difference in each of their lives. From a program struggling to find focus, C.J. developed a transitional program for his students that prepares them for becoming employed adults within the community. Each student in his class learns necessary skills required for employment. These skills are put into practice in a business started by the students at the school. C.J. works to find the interest of each student and works very closely with Vocational Rehab to place each student in an environment he/she will enjoy and find success. C.J. was asked to present his program to the Nevada Department of Education Mega Conference. He currently teaches a class on post-secondary transition at UNR to prospective special education teachers. He serves on multiple committees at the school and District level. He trains others in creating well-written IEPs, how to collect data on these IEPs, and how to move students along in their growth and progress.

## **SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF THE YEAR (2)**

*This Award category recognizes the invaluable service provided to Nevada's children by professional school administrators. Determinations are based on multiple factors including length of service, school improvement and student achievement, unique contributions, effective professional development strategies for educational staff, innovative and successful practices which have resulted in increased student achievement in the school, district, or state.*

### ***Cammie Briggs, Principal, David E. Norman Elementary School—Nominated by the White Pine County School District Board of Trustees***

**Cammie Briggs** is in her second full year as principal of David E. Norman Elementary School (DEN) where she has made an outstanding impact upon the students, staff, and parents. DEN is White Pine's largest school. Historically, despite talented teachers and leaders, the school has struggled to raise student achievement to a level acceptable to community members and other stakeholders. Mrs. Briggs successfully tackled the difficult challenge of inspiring the staff and students to achieve at higher levels and has brought in more than \$120,000 in grants to help accomplish an important goal: ensuring that all students had access to a guaranteed and viable curriculum. White Pine is fortunate indeed to have this talented principal serving the community.

### ***Rob Jacobson, Principal, Fernley Intermediate School—Nominated by the Lyon County School District Board of Trustees***

**Rob Jacobson** has been principal of Fernley Intermediate School for five years. He has been a part of Lyon County School District for the past twenty-six years. His consistent and focused work has resulted in a steady increase in student achievement, as measured by recent SBAC test results, NWEA Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) tests and district assessments. In addition to his instructional leadership, Mr. Jacobson continues to be a positive influence in the Fernley community. He has built community relationships and continues to host several unique community events each year. Rob's involvement in the Fernley community is evident when you walk on our campus. He seems to know the brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents, and cousins of almost all of our students. These connections build trust between Rob and the students.

## **DISTRICT LEVEL ADMINISTRATOR IMPACTING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

*This Award category recognizes the invaluable service provided to Nevada's children by professional school administrators who work at the district office and who impact learning and achievement.*

### ***Dr. Steve Pradere, Transformation Office Director—Carson City School District Board of Trustees***

**Dr. Steven Pradere** has been employed with Carson City School District for twenty-six years. While all of his work has been impressive, none has been more influential or significant than the work he has accomplished as the District's Transformation Office Director during the past four years. In 2012, the United States Department of Education introduced a competitive grant called "Race to the Top" for districts. Dr. Pradere and his committee put together a comprehensive plan to improve student achievement and a student data system to track progress. The District was subsequently notified that of 1,225 grant applications, Carson City had not only been awarded the \$10M grant (over 4 years) but the application ranked number one nationally in meeting the grant criteria. At the request of the USDOE, Dr. Pradere and his team presented a national

webinar describing the project and its results: increased numbers of students ready to attend college and enter the workforce.

### **SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEE MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

*This Award category recognizes the invaluable service provided to Nevada's children by employees who often work behind the scenes to impact learning and achievement.*

#### ***Robin Williams, Educator, Pahrump Valley High School—Nominated by the Nye County School District Board of Trustees***

**Mr. Robin Williams** of Pahrump Valley High School is a teacher and an advisor to the Role Playing Games Club, the Renaissance Club, and the Student Council. He is a great teacher; however, it is in his advisory positions that he makes the biggest impact on students. Knowing that students who participate in school activities and who feel like they are part of the school community are more likely to graduate, he does his best to get homeless students involved in his clubs. He also has them actively support all school activities and a variety of clubs. What Mr. Williams does is give students the opportunity to develop dignity, self-confidence, and respect.

### **SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR**

*This Award recognizes the consistent use and development of skills and programs focused on board-superintendent cooperation and teamwork to improve student achievement.*

#### ***Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent, Clark County School District—Nominated by the Boards of Trustees from Clark, Elko, and White Pine County School Districts***

It is rare indeed that Boards of Trustees from the School Boards of Clark County, White Pine County and Elko County nominated **Pat Skorkowsky** of Clark County School District for the Superintendent of the Year Award. Known for his motto, "Every student in every classroom, without exceptions, without excuses," Pat has worked with the Governor, Nevada Legislature, community groups, businesses, the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance, Nevada Succeeds, the CCSD school board, among others, to initiate, expand, and strengthen programs Districtwide and statewide for the benefit of students in areas of academics, college and career readiness, safety, graduation rate, and family/community engagement. His efforts have brought measureable improvements. Pat is a mentor to many educators in rural school districts, sharing with them programs that he and his teams have developed. Without his leadership, the collaboration and unity of all of Nevada's school districts and the Public Charter School Authority would be fragmented and limited in scope. When Pat speaks on behalf of public education and the students of Nevada, he makes it clear that he speaks for ALL students in the state—not just those residing in Clark County.

### **MEDIA AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL CONTENT DELIVERY**

*This Award recognizes the role of educational content delivery to impact student achievement, community perception, and content delivery which demonstrates consistent excellence.*

#### ***Vegas PBS—Nominated by the Clark County School District Board of School Trustees***

**Vegas PBS** has provided Southern Nevada with high quality, commercial-free television and cable programming, online media, and media delivery technology for more than 43 years. The station also provides

six educational channels directly to school classrooms. Vegas PBS' mission is to improve the lives of those in the community. One of Vegas PBS' most vital local productions is Inside Education, a cooperative effort with CCSD to provide increased transparency and accountability to students, parents, and taxpayers. Student journalists from several CCSD high schools also get opportunities to write, shoot and edit their own stories for the show. In addition to its broadcasting programming, Vegas PBS offers video streaming as a free resource to students and teachers. Video Streaming services grant teachers and students access to more than 15,000 full-length and 210,000 clips of core-curriculum, plus standards-based video programs instantly, and many other instructional resources. Vegas PBS is a strong supporter of public education and a valuable asset to our community. Tom Axtell accepted this Award on behalf of Vegas PBS.

### **MEDIA AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING EDUCATION REPORTING IN A COUNTY WITH POPULATION BELOW 100,000**

*This Award recognizes the role of media representatives in print, radio, and television in counties with populations below 100,000 when consistently outstanding reporting occurs and the media representative demonstrates excellence in these areas:*

- ✓ *Working to get to know the board president, superintendent, and district communication director, as well as the district's mission, goals, and strategic plan;*
- ✓ *Reporting school news in a fair, accurate, and balanced manner;*
- ✓ *Maintaining a policy of "no surprises" by always giving school officials the opportunity to comment on information to be aired or published;*
- ✓ *Providing a high profile to positive news about school and district accomplishments; and*
- ✓ *Visiting schools.*

### **The Ely Times and White Pine High School Digital Publishing Class—Nominated by the White Pine County School District Board of School Trustees**

It is not usual to nominate a business and school partnership for this Award; however, that's what the White Pine County School District Board of School Trustees decided to do in nominating the **Ely Times** and the **White Pine High School Digital Publishing Class** for the NASB Media Award for Outstanding Education Reporting in a County with a Population Below 100,000. Formal media coverage in a small town is limited. With a reporting staff of one, the **Ely Times** does not always have the ability to focus exclusively on education. In partnering with the Digital Publishing Class of WPHS and publishing articles researched and written by the students on a number of educational and school issues, the **Ely Times** is better able to keep the community informed. The newspaper also allows the school to publish the **Pinenut**, the school newspaper, at no cost and provide tips and coaching to students as they engage in the writing and layout processes. The community, the **Ely Times**, and the students of the Digital Publishing Class all benefit from this partnership.

### **MEDIA AWARD OF THE YEAR FOR OUTSTANDING EDUCATION REPORTING IN A PRINT JOURNALISM FORMAT**

*This Award recognizes the role of print journalism when consistently outstanding reporting occurs and the media representative demonstrates excellence in these areas:*

- ✓ *Working to get to know the board president, superintendent, and district communication director, as well as the district's mission, goals, and strategic plan;*
- ✓ *Reporting school news in a fair, accurate, and balanced manner;*
- ✓ *Maintaining a policy of "no surprises" by always giving school officials the opportunity to comment on information to be aired or published;*
- ✓ *Providing a high profile to positive news about school and district accomplishments; and*
- ✓ *Visiting schools.*

## ***Vern Hee, Pahrump Valley Times—Nominated by the Nye County School District Board of Trustees***

**Vern Hee** is the sports reporter for the *Pahrump Valley Times* and covers all sporting events throughout the entire school district, all 18,000 square miles. He not only attends Nye County School District sporting events, he attends many other school events because he believes schools are integral to the community and deserve community support. What most people do not know about Vern is that he also finds time to read in Nye County School District classrooms from the adventure novel he is writing, and answer students' questions about what it is like to be a writer. Mr. Hee is a treasure to Nye County School District.

### ***MEDIA AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING EDUCATION REPORTING IN A COUNTY WITH POPULATION ABOVE 100,000***

*This Award recognizes the role of media representatives in print, radio, and television in counties with populations above 100,000 when consistently outstanding reporting occurs and the media representative demonstrates excellence in these areas:*

- ✓ *Working to get to know the board president, superintendent, and district communication director, as well as the district's mission, goals, and strategic plan;*
- ✓ *Reporting school news in a fair, accurate, and balanced manner;*
- ✓ *Maintaining a policy of "no surprises" by always giving school officials the opportunity to comment on information to be aired or published;*
- ✓ *Providing a high profile to positive news about school and district accomplishments; and*
- ✓ *Visiting schools.*

## ***Dennis Myers, News Editor, Reno News & Review—Nominated by the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees***

As a journalist whose career has spanned more than 40 years in Nevada, **Dennis Myers** has brought a deep sense of integrity to his work, writing solid, consistent, factual reports about a variety of topics that affect the people of Nevada. In his interactions with the Washoe County School District, he has covered complicated issues with tact and professionalism, but always with an eye toward telling a truthful and balanced story. He is a wonderful example of how print journalists can serve as important conduits for information between schools and the public.

### ***INDIVIDUAL FRIEND TO K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION***

*This Award recognizes the invaluable service provided to Nevada's children by an individual who advocates on behalf of K-12 public education.*

## ***Sylvia Lazos, Policy Director, Educate Nevada Now—Nominated by the Clark County School District Board of Trustees***

While serving as a Professor at William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, **Sylvia Lazos** has concurrently served as Policy Director for Educate Nevada Now, a non-profit organization focused on raising student achievement. She has served on committees convened by three Superintendents of Clark County School District to examine the achievement gap, has researched and presented briefs on related topics, and was instrumental in the development of the Clark County School Districtwide English Language Learners

Master Plan. She brought before the Nevada Legislature a program to improve literacy for vulnerable students and collaborated with the Legislative leadership to create the zoom school program, the first time that the State of Nevada has set policy on the education of English Language Learners and provided dedicated funding for the program. Ms. Lazos also serves as Vice Chair of the Latino Leadership Council through which the Latino community has become more involved in policy discussions about education reform. As one of Nevada's top experts on English Language Learners policy working tirelessly toward closing the achievement gap while bringing necessary resources to this important endeavor, Ms. Lazos is definitely a friend of public education in Nevada.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL FRIEND OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**

*This Award recognizes the invaluable service provided to Nevada's children by an organization or community group advocating on behalf of K-12 public education.*

#### ***The Mining Industry Foundation—Nominated by the Humboldt County School District Board of Trustees***

The Winnemucca Mining Foundation also known as the **Mining Industry Foundation** is a local organization that represents the various mines and associated partners throughout Humboldt County. This organization actively supports the education of all Humboldt County and Nevada students through self-imposed membership dues. These monies are held in a Trust Fund and managed by the local foundation board with input from the Humboldt County School District team and administrative representatives. At the State level the foundation strongly advocated for support of the modified tax proposals with the objective of increasing funding opportunities for Nevada students. The Winnemucca Mining Foundation also has provided unparalleled support of individual Humboldt County students. Through its partnership with the Humboldt County School District, the foundation has provided technology donations and funds for facility improvements, partnered with the district to develop a High Tech Center feasibility study, and provided substantial cash donations toward the construction of the Winnemucca Boys and Girls Club, grant opportunities for Humboldt County School District staff, MTC scholarship opportunities for students, and fiscal support for high performing students. The on-going question asked by the Winnemucca Mining Foundation is "How can we support the objectives of public education?" According to the nomination materials, "it would be difficult to find an organization as devoted to the support of education throughout Nevada as the Winnemucca Mining Foundation."

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AWARDS (3)**

#### ***Jon Ralston, Ralston Reports, the Reno Gazette Journal, and Other Media Outlets***

Over the course of his career, **Jon Ralston** has probably written and discussed more about Nevada politics than any other journalist or political commentator in the State. This award is not, however, for that incredible, outstanding body of work. This Award recognizes Jon for a personal column that he wrote about his role as a parent of a transgender young person, his son Jake. The column was poignant, personal, and enabled countless readers to better understand the issues and challenges faced by transgender young people and their parents who want to support them and love them. The column appeared originally in the **Reno Gazette Journal** and has received thousands of readers online. Jon has received hundreds of responses from around the world. This Award recognizes Jon for using his skill, expertise, and gift as a writer to describe a personal situation that has



enabled who knows how many individuals to better understand what it is to be a transgender person and the father of a transgender young person.

### ***Dr. Greg Koenig, Trustee—Churchill County School District***

Dr. Greg Koenig has served as a Trustee on the Churchill County School District Board during times of stress, division, financial challenges, and finally during a period of unity and cohesion. Throughout his twelve years as a Trustee including his eight years as Board President, Greg has worked with an eye always on student achievement with a focus toward how the Board could align its policy and resources toward that goal. He attends state and national school board conferences and other professional development events and puts skills and strategies that he has learned into practice. At the national level through the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) conference in Washington, D.C., he has vigorously advocated for school funding. His efforts have paid off with substantial increases of federal impact aid for his District. Greg is recognized for his dedication, his long-term service, his leadership on the Churchill Board, and his years of dedication and service to the Nevada Association of School Boards.

### ***Lou Basanez, Trustee—Elko County School District***

It is not often that a Nevada Trustee gets to serve her school district for fourteen years, yet that is what **Lou Basanez** has done, always with a smile on her face, with the interests of students on her mind, and with good will in her heart. While serving on the NASB Board of Directors, Lou has consistently represented not only Elko but other rural school districts, bringing her broad experience and depth of knowledge to Directors as well as to the Association's Executive Committee. Lou lives in Mountain City, which is not a suburb of Elko—as some might think—but it is located 84.4 miles from Elko, 371 miles from Reno, and 505 miles from Las Vegas. In spite of the challenges faced in getting to meetings in these locations and elsewhere in the State, Lou can always be counted on to be present, on time, and prepared for whatever is on the agenda. It has been said that “if you want to get something done, give it to a busy person.” That definitely applies in Lou's case because she participates in a range of volunteer activities in her community, enjoys hunting and other outings with her family, travels with her sisters, and still manages to serve as a dedicated Trustee, NASB Director, and Rural Liaison to the Executive Committee.

### ***SCHOOL BOARD SECRETARY OF THE YEAR***

*This Award recognizes the vital role that board secretaries and other support staff play in working behind the scenes with local school board members and superintendents to facilitate board decision-making and activities to improve student achievement, extend family engagement, and enhance community awareness.*

### ***Julie Heggie, Board Secretary, White Pine County School District—Nominated by the White Pine County School District Board of Trustees***

According to the White Pine County School District Board of Trustees, **Julie Heggie** is a consummate professional in all that she does. Since assuming the duties as secretary for the White Pine County School District Superintendent and Board of Trustees, Julie has brought increased proficiency and productivity to the office. In addition to her extraordinary office management and problem solving skills, her public relations skills are second to none! She is a proactive employee who doesn't wait to be given direction and is always looking for a way in which things can be done better. Julie's influence has been particularly important during the transition period between superintendents in White Pine. Her expertise and history have allowed for a relatively smooth process as a new superintendent assumed the reins in July. While recognizing that every

school district has an outstanding board secretary, the White Pine Board believes that it has one of the top individuals in Julie Heggie. She seemingly never has a bad day and takes on every task with a smile. The Board's nomination form concludes by stating that "we could not do board duties efficiently without her."

### **DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR**

*This Award recognizes the consistent, effective communication skills demonstrated during meetings of the NASB Board of Directors as well as promotion of leadership skills and strategies for recognizing and rewarding student, administrator, educational staff, school, and district achievement.*

#### **Tracie Ward, NASB Director, Nye County School District—Nominated by the White Pine County School District Board of Trustees**

**Tracie Ward** has been an active member of the Nye County School District Board of Trustees since her appointment in 2002. As an involved mother of four students attending schools in Pahrump, the wife of a school teacher, and the daughter of an educator, Tracie has a 360 degree view of education which has proven to be of great value to the Nye County School District Superintendent and Board of Trustees. She is known for her dedication and commitment to public education in Nevada and isn't hesitant in letting people know how she stands on issues. The respect she has among fellow board members is evidenced by her service as Board Chair for several terms. The Nye County School District Board of Trustees changed the Board policy of limiting members to two terms so that Ms. Ward could continue to serve as Board Chair. The White Pine County School District Board members who serve at the State level hold Ms. Ward in high esteem and believe she is deserving of this state recognition.

### **NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

*This award recognizes the dedicated service of Nevada's newest school board members. School boards may nominate members in their first term of service.*

#### **Nicole Bengochea, Trustee, Humboldt County School District—Nominated by the Humboldt County School District Board of Trustees**

From the moment that **Nicole Bengochea** joined the Humboldt County School District Board of Trustees, she has been completely engaged and has thoroughly researched all topics of discussion. She provides meaningful input to assist the Board in making decisions in the best interest of Humboldt's students. Mrs. Bengochea takes the importance of visibility as a Board member seriously and travels to each of the remote rural schools, providing a clear message of support. The Board has been impressed by the caliber of insight that Mrs. Bengochea brings to discussions during Board meetings and retreats. She reviews the agendas well in advance and frequently reaches out to the Superintendent to seek additional clarification and understanding to assist in making determinations which she believes to be in the best interest of all. Julie is a widely respected Board member and is actively sought out by community members. She has the qualifications needed to succeed as an effective Trustee for many years to come.



## **VETERAN SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

*This award recognizes the dedicated service and leadership of local board members who have served for more than one term.*

After-school program volunteer, substitute teacher, interim principal, interim Superintendent, and School Board Trustee of Nye County School District: only one person has held all of these positions, **Harold Tokerud**. Harold is in the last months of his third and final term on the Nye County School Board. While President of the Board, he made it a practice to hold School Board meetings in each community in spite of severe budget constraints. As a member of the Insurance Committee, he argued with the unions that the more than one million dollars in surplus should go back to the general fund—which it did. The two years Mr. Tokerud served as President were some of the most difficult years the District has suffered through: two schools were closed, the District staff was reduced by approximately 200, three Board Members resigned, and the Superintendent announced his retirement. There was a lot of anger expressed by the public at the Board meetings, but Harold remained calm and gracious throughout everything. During the budget crisis, Harold donated his School Board salary to the schools, a practice he continues to this day. Every Nevada school board should be so lucky to have a Trustee like Harold Tokerud...his dedication and commitment to students is unsurpassed in his community.

## **INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS OF THE YEAR (2)**

*This award recognizes the consistent use and development of effective boardsmanship skills and acknowledges productive involvement in raising the level of community support for schools and the promotion of leadership and successful practices which improve student achievement while advancing the course of public education in the community, the district, or the state.*

### ***Lori Hunt, Trustee, White Pine County School District—Nominated by the White Pine County School District Board of Trustees***

Beginning as a School Board Director and currently serving as a Rural Liaison to the Nevada Association of School Boards, **Lori Hunt** has been a regular at the NASB conferences and training where she has provided her valuable insight on a wide range of topics. She has taken on a very large and important role of serving on the School Trust Lands Exploratory Committee for NASB. Lori often makes presentations to the Legislature providing evidence of what White Pine County School District is doing to help all students achieve, as well as acknowledging the work of other school districts. Ms. Hunt has served as Board Chair for the White Pine County School District for six years. Of those years, at least four have dealt with issues of budget shortfalls and reduction in force—both challenging topics. Lori has met every challenge with grace. She creates a unity within the District to put the students first. She has a special gift of creating cooperation with educational partners. This Award recognizes all of the contributions to education that Lori Hunt has made on behalf of the White Pine community and the State.

### ***Lou Basanez, Trustee, White Pine County School District—Nominated by the Boards of Trustees from Elko and Humboldt County School Districts***

Both the Elko and Humboldt County Boards of School Trustees nominated **Lou Basanez** as the NASB Individual School Board Member of the Year. Lou has been a long-standing Trustee of the Elko County School Board. She has had a profound impact on education, not only in Elko County but throughout the State of Nevada. During at least a decade of her fourteen years as an Elko County School Board Trustee, Lou has served concurrently as a Director on the Nevada Association of School Boards where her efforts have had a direct impact on Humboldt and Elko Counties. In addition, Lou has been a rural liaison during the past five years,

providing strong advocacy for smaller school districts throughout Nevada, emphasizing the need to provide strong support for challenging locations. Lou's welcoming demeanor and keen sense of humor often bring calm to otherwise difficult situations. According to the nomination materials, Ms. Basanez was nominated on the basis of her outstanding service to NASB, the State of Nevada, and Elko and Humboldt County School Districts to improve education in Nevada for ALL students.

### **GOVERNANCE TEAM OF THE YEAR**

*This Award recognizes the vital role of local boards working hand in hand with superintendents and collaborating with district leaders to improve student achievement across all levels.*

#### ***Churchill County School District Board of Trustees and Superintendent Dr. Sandra Sheldon***

To be an effective team, Board Members must be on the same page with each other, then on the same page as the Superintendent. Much can be accomplished when team members spend all of their efforts working together, rather than working on individual agendas. Churchill County School District Board of Trustees has worked hard to overcome the divisiveness which has existed for some time. Now, Board Members are finally on the same team, working together to accomplish goals and move forward. The new collaboration within the Board has fostered trust with members of the School District and the community. Finally, a true team!

### **SCHOOL BOARD OF THE YEAR**

*This Award recognizes the consistent use and development of skills and programs focused on board-superintendent cooperation and teamwork to improve student achievement.*

#### ***Elko County School District Board of Trustees and Superintendent Jeff Zander***

While the ***Elko County School District Board of Trustees*** has attained many technical achievements, perhaps its greatest strength is its connection with the community. In collaboration with the Superintendent through policy development, the Board has developed a governance model which provides a positive, ethical and honest connection with Elko County School District stakeholders and the public. The Board has developed effective relationships with many organizations and municipalities throughout Nevada in an effort to increase educational opportunities and accomplish its goals. In an ongoing effort to provide visibility and transparency, the Trustees annually hold Board meetings in seven communities within Elko County, three of those communities being more than 100 miles from Elko. In the recent General Election, the Elko County School District Board of Trustees had four seats up for election and all of those seats will be filled unopposed, a direct reflection on the level of transparency, honesty, and collaboration demonstrated by the Board.

### ***Additional Presentations and New Officers—***

The Association recognized 2015-2016 ***President Joe Crim, Jr.*** [Pershing] for his dedicated service to NASB over the course of the last year and for his vision in moving the Association toward greater achievement of its strategic goals.

The Association also recognized thirty-three departing school board members from across Nevada with combined service totaling 237 years. In addition, board administrative assistants were honored.

The Association elected new officers for 2016-2017:

**President**—Wade Poulsen, Lincoln County School District;

**President Elect**— Stacie Wilke-McCulloch, Carson City School District

**Vice President**—Bob Burnham, Eureka County School District

**Legislative Chair**—Bridget Peterson, Lyon County School District

For questions, please contact Dr. Dotty Merrill, Executive Director, Nevada Association of School Boards, 775/443-5988.

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