



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, September 13, 2013

DPI-NR 2013-106 A

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Menomonie educator named Wisconsin Elementary Teacher of the Year

Anne Hasse to receive \$3,000 from Herb Kohl Educational Foundation

MADISON — In a surprise ceremony at her school, Anne Hasse, a fifth-grade teacher at Wakanda Elementary School in Menomonie, was named Wisconsin’s Elementary Teacher of the Year for the 2013-14 school year.

State Superintendent Tony Evers made the announcement during an all-school assembly. As part of the Teacher of the Year honor, Hasse will receive \$3,000 from the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation.

“For our students to succeed, we need great educators in our schools,” Evers said. “These teachers have been recognized by their peers, students, and parents as caring, committed educators, and they are now being honored with this award. They represent the many quality educators in Wisconsin that are working everyday to make a difference in the lives of our young children, helping prepare them for a successful future.”

“The Teacher of the Year program recognizes excellence in education, and these educators go above and beyond to help all children achieve,” said U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl (retired), who co-sponsors the program through his educational foundation. “They are leaders in their classroom, school, and communities, helping make Wisconsin a better place for all.”

“I must first discover what motivates, moves, frightens, and inspires each one of my students,” wrote Hasse in her application materials. “Empowered with that knowledge, we can go forth together and conquer the world.” Hasse believes in reflection and personal improvement. “I constantly ask myself what I can do better in the classroom to add value and richness to the experience of each student and family.”

One of Hasse’s popular programs is “Breaking the Box: The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright.” This is a unit that features innovative technology integration, unique hands-on learning experiences, and strong cross-curricular connections. As part of the unit, students create a portfolio highlighting an original floor plan, rendering, and 3-D model. Each student design is created for a volunteer from the community who acts as a ‘client.’ Students showcase their work at a gallery open house before they participate in a three-day field trip visiting the works of Wright in Chicago, Racine, and Madison.

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Greg Corning, Hasse’s principal says, “Anne encourages a free flow of ideas and comments, always checking for student understanding. She has excellent communication skills, keeping students, parents, and other school staff members well informed of student and classroom activities.”

Jennifer Vos, a parent of one of Hasse’s students, admires her dedication to her students and the enthusiasm she brings to the classroom. “Her contagious enthusiasm combined with her love of teaching is a dynamic combination. She provides an exceptional education sprinkled with creative brainstorming and a quest for knowledge. She expects more and gets more from her students.”

Hasse holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the Rockford College, Rockford, Ill., and a Master of Educational Computing from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. She has been an educator at Wakanda Elementary School since 2005. Evers will recognize Hasse as the Wisconsin Elementary Teacher of the Year during his State of Education address Sept. 26 in Madison.

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NOTES: This news release is available electronically at http://news.dpi.wi.gov/files/eis/pdf/dpinr2013_106a.pdf.