

OBEA 2009 Awards
Secondary Teacher of the Year
Christy Ekroth
David Douglas High School

Christy Ekroth has been teaching business education for more than 35 years with the last 33 being at the same high school.

She has taught everything from office machines and shorthand to computer applications and database/programming. She has taught at the high school, community college, and even a game design and programming class to elementary and middle school students at a summer camp.

Outside of the classroom, she has been a Perkins grant writer, FBLA and DECA advisor, coordinator for Professional Learning Teams, Business Department Chair, mentor to new teachers, chaperone and coach.

Christy is very involved in her professional organizations and is a member of OBEA, WBEA, and NBEA. She has served and is currently serving in key leadership roles.

A former student writes, "She set high standards for her students. She encouraged and mentored us in a positive manner enabling us to achieve excellence. She is clear with her expectations and stays after class to help students' successfully complete assignments. I have great respect and admiration for her as a teacher and as a person of integrity."

A colleague writes, "She is truly a master teacher. She empowers others by sharing her knowledge and experiences with new teachers and student teachers. Her efforts have improved student literacy, created more engaging curriculum and improved teaching practices at our school. Her leadership style is inclusive which creates high morale within our division."

And finally, her administrators have this to say. "She possesses superior knowledge regarding all fields within business education and she has an unbelievable knowledge of instructional strategies. But, most importantly, she is passionate about her students and their success. She consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that her students get the best educational experience they can."

In Christy's own words, "The bottom line is that we are the bottom line. With the ever changing technology and the changing backgrounds of our students, we need to keep current. The best way to do that is to reach out to others with the expertise and become involved ourselves."



OBEA 2009 Awards
Administrator of the Year
Gary Carlton, Principal
Madras High School

Gary Carlton has been in education for 36 years--17 years as a high school principal. Throughout his career, he has always been a strong advocate of career and technical programs.

At his current high school, he was instrumental in establishing and maintaining current technological equipment and labs to provide the most current curriculum and career pathways offerings to students. He works closely with his teachers and encourages them to all be involved with their professional organizations and supports attendance at trainings and conferences throughout the state and nationally.

This is what one of his teachers has to say about him. "He encourages me to attend CTE Perkins Regional meetings, OBEA meetings and conferences and FBLA Board meetings. He even thanks me for being a member of these organizations." Another teacher writes, "His enthusiasm, interest and support for business education has been most appreciated. He is the most supportive and creative principal I have worked with in the many years I have been involved in business education."

Aside from being totally committed to his school, staff, and career education, here is what a teacher says about his leadership style. "He is warm, personable, and genuinely makes his staff feel as if they are of value. In my 31 years of teaching, I can easily say he is the best principal I have ever served under."

