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## **Healthy Schools Campaign Announces 2015 School Nurse Leadership Award Winners**

*National Award Recognizes School Nurses Going Above and Beyond  
to Improve the Health of Students and Communities*

CHICAGO – Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC) today announced the winners of the second annual School Nurse Leadership Award. The five winners and five honorable mentions recognized from across the country are individuals who have gone above and beyond by reimagining the role that school nurses play within schools and by creating and advancing school health programs and initiatives that contribute to students' health and academic success, and to the health of the broader community.

"It's truly an honor to recognize these ten outstanding school nurses for their hard work and innovative approaches to improving the health and wellbeing of their students," said Rochelle Davis, HSC president and CEO. "And while today we're highlighting ten individuals, the School Nurse Leadership Award is really an opportunity to recognize and thank all school nurses for the important work they do within our schools and communities and on behalf of our children."

School Nurse Leadership Award nominees were evaluated according to criteria which includes efforts to change school health policy, to promote evidence-based practices and to work effectively with others. Final winners and honorable mentions were selected by a national panel of school health experts.

The School Nurse Leadership Award is generously sponsored and supported by [School Health Corporation](#) and [MAICO Diagnostics](#). Winners receive a certificate of recognition, a \$500 gift card to *School Health*, and they will be featured in HSC's blog and webinar series.

"We are incredibly impressed by the dedication of the 2015 School Nurse Leadership Award winners," said Rob Rogers, COO of School Health Corporation and current HSC board president. "As the nation's leading supplier of school health supplies, we know that school nurses are at the heart of what we do, and it's an honor to recognize leaders in this important field."

"These school nurses are making a real difference in the lives of the children and families they serve," said Scott Cozad, national sales manager of MAICO Diagnostics. "It's a privilege to support the School Nurse Leadership Award that highlights the important work being done by school nurses on a daily basis."

### **2015 School Nurse Leadership Award Winners**

*Lily Bagtas, Joan K. Mendel Elementary School, U.S. Department of Defense, Yokota Air Base, Tokyo, Japan* – While serving overseas, Lily has had a meaningful impact on the nation's military families stationed at Tokyo's Yokota Air Base. She proactively implemented recess before lunch at her school, which is a practice that has proven to increase students' consumption of fruits and vegetables. She also started an after school program called Club 2-1-

5-0, which advocates for two or fewer hours of screen time, one or more hours of physical activity, five or more servings of fruits and vegetables, and zero sweetened beverages per day. Data collected from students at the beginning and end of the program demonstrated significant improvements in all aspects of Club 2-1-5-0; including 93% of all participants who reported liking themselves better at the end of the program, compared to at the beginning.

*Kelly Grenham, Mapleton Public Schools, Denver, Colorado* – Kelly is a National Board Certified school nurse and has been a district school nurse consultant for Mapleton Public Schools for 10 years. Her impact and advocacy for school nursing has led to the district's hiring of two additional school nurses. As part of the Department of Education's Regional Nurse Specialist program, she helped develop a standardized health care plan for asthma for her district. The plan used evidence-based information to allow for repeated dosing of asthma medications and specific indications when a child required more help than the school was previously permitted to provide. This led to a significant increase in individualized asthma care plans for students, resulting in fewer children being sent home and having to miss class time because their asthma was treated appropriately at school.

*Sandra Lawinger, Community Consolidated School District, Glen Ellyn, Illinois* – Sandra is a district nurse serving more than 2,000 students across five buildings. She also serves on the district's employee wellness committee and chairs the wellness advisory council. She proposed and wrote her district's wellness policy, which includes nutrition education, physical activity and nutrition guidelines. Sandra went the extra mile by taking into account students' documented food allergies, creating a pre-approved "safe" food list for use by teachers and parents who are planning parties and events where food will be served to students. In addition, Sandra wrote a district policy for student athlete concussions and head injuries to reflect recent changes to the Illinois General Assembly School Code. She worked with the district's PE staff to ensure that parents and students were informed in concussion prevention, recognition and response.

*Carla Smith, Ellis School, Fremont, New Hampshire* – Carla's role as a school nurse extends well beyond the school day. Throughout the Fremont community, she's a trusted and respected health care professional who is often consulted for medical advice in the grocery store aisle or in the stands at sporting events. Likewise, Carla develops creative ways to reinforce the importance of health and safety both inside and outside of school. She brought the American Red Cross Babysitter's Training to her school, helping nearly 50 students become CPR and "babysitter" certified. She also designed and implemented a successful Halloween candy buy-back program, which promotes dental health by encouraging children to trick-or-treat and then to bring their candy to school to trade it in for a healthy goody bag containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, fresh fruit and other healthy snacks.

*Eva Stone, Lincoln County Schools, Stanford, Kentucky* – When Eva started working for Lincoln County Schools, the district had the highest school dropout rate in the state. Of particular concern, many students were missing school for two or more weeks because of head lice. This was due, in part, to policies that didn't allow staff to check for lice, as well as a strict "no nit" policy that ran counter to recommendations by the CDC and other health organizations. With Eva's help, the district has moved toward improving these policies. She has also worked more broadly on addressing chronic absenteeism, which is defined as missing 10% or more of school. By assembling teams at each of the district's 10 schools to address the needs of students who are chronically absent, schools are able to identify barriers and provide wrap around services and targeted interventions. These efforts have paid off in decreases of chronic absenteeism rates at each school.

**2015 School Nurse Leadership Award Honorable Mentions**

*Margo Brown, Southwood Middle School, Country Club Hills, Illinois*

*Loree LaChance, Kealing Middle School, Austin, Texas*

*Kelly Meadows, Little Cypress Intermediate School, Orange, Texas*

*Linda Mendonca, Jenks/JMW School for the Arts, Pawtucket, Rhode Island*

*Belinda Stivers, Eminence Elementary School, Eminence, Kentucky*

For more information about the 2015 School Nurse Leadership Award winners, [sign up for HSC's School Nurse Newsletter](#), and [check the HSC blog](#) for upcoming award winner interviews, case studies and webinar presentations.

**About Healthy Schools Campaign**

Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to making schools healthier places for all students. HSC believes that health and wellness should be incorporated into every aspect of the school experience. Founded in 2002, HSC advocates for children to have better access to nutritious school food, physical activity, school health resources and clean air to shape their lifelong learning and health. HSC facilitates collaboration among students, parents, teachers, administrators and policymakers to help prepare this diverse group of stakeholders to lead change for healthier schools at the school, district, state and national levels. For more information, go to [healthyschoolscampaign.org](http://healthyschoolscampaign.org), or follow HSC on social media at [facebook.com/healthyschools](https://facebook.com/healthyschools) and [twitter.com/healthyschools](https://twitter.com/healthyschools).

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