



North Central Association
Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement

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Former Ladue Horton Watkins High School Principal to receive NCA's John Vaughn Award

Tempe, Arizona – February 12, 2008– Dr. P. Joseph Powers, Assistant Professor at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri, is one of eleven educators who will receive the 2008 John Vaughn Excellence in Education Award from the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) at the Annual Conference of the Commission held on March 17, 2008, in Chicago.

Every year NCA CASI invites teachers, administrators, students, parents, and community representatives to nominate people who motivate students to high levels of achievement, involve the community in substantive aspects of schooling, expand programs and services to meet the varying needs of students, and/or demonstrate a pioneering spirit that enables all schools and districts to move forward. The Commission then selects individuals to receive the award from across a 19-state region, including the Navajo Nation and the Department of Defense Education Activity. The award honors the memory of Dr. John W. Vaughn, who was Executive Director of NCA CASI prior to his death in 1986.

Dr. Power's letter of nomination states that he "...is an innovative leader who is particularly strong at motivating and involving others in the improvement process. His 30+ years of experience and strong commitment to a student-centered instructional environment make him a leader that gets results. Joe has been an important influence in promoting and guiding the work of school improvement through North Central accreditation throughout his career in the schools he has served."

Dr. Powers recently retired after eight years as principal of Ladue Horton Watkins High School in the School District of the City of Ladue. Under his instructional leadership, Ladue more than doubled its Advanced Placement program; in 2006 the Siemens Corporation recognized Ladue as the top AP school in math and science in the state of Missouri. Ladue has consistently ranked as one of the nation's top high schools in *Newsweek* magazine's annual report on excellence in education. Dr. Power's strong commitment to student achievement also led to Ladue students earning the highest ACT scores in the school's history. Prior to Ladue, he served as principal of Affton High School and held various administrative positions in the Rockwood School District and at the Stavanger American School in Norway.

Dr. Powers holds an Education Specialist and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Saint Louis University, a Master's degree in Secondary School Administration from Southeast Missouri State University, a MA in History from Southern Illinois University and a BA in Political Science and History from Southeast Missouri State University.

The North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement is a non-governmental, voluntary association of public and private elementary and secondary schools in 19 states, the Navajo Nation, and the Department of Defense Education Activity worldwide. NCA CASI is an accreditation division of AdvancED, parent organization for NCA CASI, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) and the National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE). AdvancED is dedicated to advancing excellence in education worldwide.

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