

2014-2015 Missouri Friend of School Social Work

Dr. Jim Hammen

The 2014-2015 Friend of School Social Work Award was presented to Liberty Public Schools Director of Student Services, Dr. Jim Hammen, at the district's Board of Education Meeting on 8/18/2014.

The Friend of School Social Work Award recognizes one person in the state that strives to advance our professional organization's mission. The recipient of the Friend of School Social Work Award must have demonstrated, over the past school year, dedication to the promotion of social work services in schools combined with a strong desire to help, not only our organization advance, but also advance our member's professional knowledge base and foster a sense of community among our members.

Dr. Hammen has spent many hours inspiring and working alongside his district social workers creating innovative support programs to assist students in overcoming barriers to education, such as: the CCRD Group, BEST Task Force, a Back to School Community Event, a Necessities Closet, administration of Emergency Assistance Funds, and advancement of the district's suicide prevention and intervention efforts. His oversight of Centralized Enrollment and discipline, as well as coordinator of long term suspension and McKinney Vento Homeless services, is administered with the utmost compassion and fairness. Not only does he continuously put the best interest of students and their families first, but believes in the investment of school social workers. He has successfully advocated for the advancement of the profession through the addition of district social workers during a time when we are most needed but fiscally difficult to employ. He has supported the professional development of district social workers and encourages their involvement in their professional organization.

According to the nominations received, "Dr. Hammen demonstrates the social work values of service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence. We cannot imagine doing our job without his support. He truly is a friend of school social work – and also to Liberty Public School students, families, staff, and to the Liberty community."

Congratulations to Dr. Hammen and a big thank you to those who nominated him and also to those who came to the Board of Education meeting to support him, including SSWAM's Western Regional Representative, Rachel Gabriel-Nelson and President-Elect, Kim Harrelson.

