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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Illinois Principals Association Encourages Principal Appreciation in October

Springfield, IL – The Illinois Principals Association (IPA) encourages communities to celebrate Principal Appreciation Week October 19-25, 2025, and Principal Appreciation Day on Friday, October 24 to highlight the dedication of principals, assistant principals, and deans. This annual recognition has been recognized by Illinois governors since 1990. October is also National Principals Month, supported by the IPA, National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), and the American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA).

Dr. Angie Codron, IPA President and principal of Normal West High School, shared: “Find your team. School leadership is a job where being part of a team works better than doing things alone. By creating a solid personal mission it will help drive how you spend your time both personally and professionally. Have expectations for how your teams will function so the work can move forward without you having to be present at every school team's meetings. Know your organization at a level that drives what happens at your school and what doesn't happen at your school and why. Your leadership is needed and appreciated.”

“This year, we celebrate our state’s school leaders for what they do – build a lasting legacy with those they serve,” said **Dr. Jason Leahy, IPA Executive Director**. “These courageous individuals lead their learning organizations with optimism, humility, vision, perseverance, and a deep commitment to do what is best for their students. Both research and common sense tell us how critical these servants are to positively influence young people, teachers, and communities. For this, they deserve our respect and gratitude.”

IPA invites teachers, students, parents, and community members to show appreciation for school leaders on Friday, October 24.

The Illinois Principals Association is a leadership organization which serves almost 7,000 educational leaders throughout the state of Illinois and whose mission is to develop, support, and advocate for innovative educational leaders. For more information about the IPA, please visit www.ilprincipals.org

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