



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of Education Honors U-46 Students, Coach for State Achievements

Students excelled at Special Olympics and Design Competition

ELGIN - The School District U-46 Board of Education Monday night honored two students and a teacher for their recent accomplishments.

John Rogers, now a sophomore at Bartlett High School's Science, Engineering, and Technology Magnet Academy, earned first place in the Introductory Board Drawing Competition at the Illinois Design Educators Association Competition. The event was held in April on the campus of Illinois State University.

In John's event, students had to use drafting equipment like rulers, a compass, and T-square to create a 3-D drawing of a specified mechanical object in under two hours. John said the hours he practiced at home doing problems from prior years' tournaments paid off and gave him confidence.

The BOE also honored Vincent Leal, a student in the Transition program at South Elgin High School. He earned gold in the 100M racewalk at the Summer Games of the Illinois Special Olympics held in Bloomington-Normal in June. Vincent competes for the Blue Stars, U-46's Special Olympics team.

"Vinny could also win an award for leadership on our team," said Blue Stars coach Brooke McGrath. "He takes great pride in being a leader for his teammates and helping them find their strengths at practice and on the court."

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Finally, the BOE recognized Michele Mueller, the boys volleyball coach at Streamwood High School. She was named the 2024 Boys Volleyball Coach of the Year by the Illinois Volleyball Coaches Association.

Mueller, who also teaches science at SHS, has been the boys head volleyball coach for the Sabres since 2019. The team went 10-21 the year before she joined.

"In true Mueller form, she pushed forward with the goal of changing the culture and getting players to believe in themselves, as well as the process," the IVCA said in giving her the award.

The Sabres finished the 2024 season with an overall record of 25-7 and placed 2nd in their conference; the best record and conference finish in program history.

The Board of Education recognized all three with "Accent on Achievement" certificates during its meeting on Monday, Sept. 23.

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School District U-46 serves families in 11 communities: Bartlett, Elgin, Hanover Park, South Elgin, Streamwood and Wayne, as well as portions of Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and West Chicago. In total, the District encompasses 90 square miles within the Fox River Valley, approximately 45 minutes west of downtown Chicago, and includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. More than 34,000 preschoolers through 12th graders attend the 55 District schools and programs. To learn more, visit the U-46 [website](#), or like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Instagram](#).

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