

Press Clippings 05/14/2019

---Daily Herald---05/14/2019

U-46 honors social worker, top 2% of graduating seniors

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy



Karen Osborne, a social worker at Fox Meadow Elementary School in South Elgin, recently was named Kane County Student Support Personnel of the Year.

Karen Osborne knew she wanted to be "a sounding board" for students based on her own high school experience when a social worker helped her process grief after losing her father.

"I tell the students that my job is to help out them, parents and teachers with any kind of problems that they are having," said Osborne, a social worker at Fox Meadow Elementary School in South Elgin recently named the 2019 Kane County Student Support Personnel of the Year. "There is nothing so awful you can't tell someone, and everyone has a right to feel safe all of the time."

Osborne received the award during the Kane County Regional Office of Education's 44th Educator of the Year awards banquet May 3.

On Monday, the Elgin Area School District U-46 school board recognized Osborne with a certificate of achievement and honored the top 2% of graduating seniors districtwide during a ceremony at South Elgin High School.

Osborne, a 1981 graduate of Streamwood High School and a licensed clinical social worker, has worked in several U-46 elementary and middle schools for nearly 31 years. She has been at Fox Meadow since 2016.

"Every day I see her go above and beyond what is expected of her with both students and staff," Fox Meadow Principal Sjoukje Brown said. "She is frequently sought out by students and has a line outside her door every morning and afternoon with kids who want to say hello or goodbye."

Osborne meets with students in classrooms, small groups and individually to support their social-emotional and behavioral goals. This year she is piloting a new curriculum that teaches students resiliency.

"When you can connect with a student as young as 5 years old and see them using strategies that you taught them to calm themselves, it is amazing," Osborne said.

Forty-six students from the 2019 graduating class were recognized for being the top achievers from the district's five comprehensive high schools. They are:

- Bartlett -- Aakash Nagarapu, Aaron Farabaugh, Amy Chen, Harsh Chheda, Nimesh Tailor, Rohan Shah, Rushi Patel, Tessa Wanthal, Theresa Videckis, Zain Sattar
- Elgin -- Caroline Kaczmarek, Guadalupe Chavez, Joshua Placko, Kyle Coates, Lauren Dimayuga, Riya Kumar, Shrinal Patel, Simona Simeonova, Viseth Som
- Larkin -- Caroline Przywara, Emily Crawford, Jordan Kosin, Kassia Lesiewicz, Kevin Duffy, Noa Greenfeld, Scarlett Ford
- South Elgin -- Abigail Culloton, Bridget Bondi, Carli Allen, Hannah Anderson, Jace Warrick, MacKenzie Molina, Madeline Kordecki, Madison Caliendo, Nicole Allen, Sara Pfeil, Sarah Boghossian
- Streamwood -- Anna Rataj, Brianna Yi, Jakub Adamek, Marcos Villarreal, Mary Chung, Nicole Rataj, Nikky Jordan, Victoria Bajorek, William Morgan

---The Courier-News---05/14/2019

Credit union wants to issue U46-themed credit and debit cards to benefit school district foundation

By: Rafael Guerrero



If approved by the District U46 School Board, the Kane County Teacher Credit Union will issue U46-themed credit and debit cards through which a portion of all transactions will go to the U46 Educational Foundation.

The U46 Educational Foundation is working with the Kane County Teachers Credit Union on a plan to issue School District U46-themed credit and debit cards that will contribute money to scholarships, teacher grants and other foundation programs.

Credit union CEO Mike Lee and Foundation President Bud Wilson presented the idea to the school board Monday

The cards could generate as much as \$25,000 for the foundation in the first year and perhaps as much as \$400,000 within five years, Lee said.

The foundation receives a portion of each transaction made with the card, he said.

East [Aurora](#) School District 131, West Aurora School District 129 and Geneva School District 304 already have “affinity” card programs. If approved by the school board, U46 would be the fourth district to offer them starting in the fall.

There would be six card designs from which card holders could choose — one with the district logo and one each for the district’s five high schools using the school’s colors.

“If school districts have resources and are thriving, the communities will too,” Lee said Wednesday. “The way I see it is we are helping the communities as a whole.

“(The card) also markets the school district. I’ve had an Aurora card in my pocket for years, and people will ask where did I get that card from?”

The first credit cards for the East Aurora Educational Foundation were issued a year ago, and generated about \$900 in the first few months, foundation President Bill Deligiannis said. The amount of their next payment should be much higher because awareness of the program is growing, he said.

“Our two main endeavors are the scholarships for students and the mini-grants for teachers,” he said.

Only credit union members can obtain the cards, Lee told the school board Monday. Right now, they have about 2,700 customers who are affiliated with U46, he said.

“We will actually highlight this in all our branches to try to get the community to support the school district,” Lee said.

School board members, who did not discuss the credit card proposal Monday, are expected to vote on it at a future meeting.

Foundations are independent nonprofit organizations that raise money for things a district cannot afford. Often, money is earmarked for grants that teachers can use for initiatives or to pay for things for their classroom or to pay for student scholarships.

The U46 foundation started in 2006 and has distributed about to \$500,000 for such things as shows at the district planetarium and observatory, heart monitors for physical education classes and a mini-grant program for teachers.