

Licking County Foundation honors 14 teachers

Anna Jeffries, ajeffries@newarkadvocate.com
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Connie Hawk presents Newark High School French teacher Juliana Porter with the Licking County Foundation's 2015 Leaders for Learning Award. The awards were a surprise for three Newark teachers Wednesday morning. (Photo: Anna Jeffries/The Advocate)

NEWARK – Juliana Porter started to get nervous when she was called down to the office Wednesday morning.

Her concern grew when she realized a group of principals and administrators was waiting for her.

Then Connie Hawk, director of the Licking County Foundation, stepped forward with good news. Porter, who teaches French at Newark High School, was one of three Newark teachers chosen to receive a 2015 Leaders for Learning Award.

Over the last two weeks, the foundation has traveled to school districts around the county, handing out 14 glass apple trophies to local educators.

Each teacher was nominated by his or her school district for showing a belief that all students can and want to learn, being committed to professional development and having outstanding classroom and leadership skills, Hawk said.

“This provides the extra recognition that these teachers and school districts deserve,” she said. “It creates a lot of excitement. The districts are very thoughtful about their selections.”

Each teacher received a glass apple trophy made by The Works. The teachers also are eligible to apply for grants, up to \$500, from the Lindorf-Warner Memorial Fund every year.

“This is a way we can show teachers the impact they have on the community,” Evans said.

Wednesday’s presentation was a special one for Evans; Porter was her French teacher when she attended Newark High School.

“You can just tell when a teacher has a passion and love of the subject,” Evans said. “You could always tell she loved French and wanted to impart that to the students.”

Porter said she was totally shocked to receive the award.

“It’s a very big honor. I know other teachers who’ve gotten this and have been very deserving so I’m very humbled,” she said.

After Shellie Herrman won her award, her eighth-grade language students showered her with confetti.

A teacher in Newark since 2002, Herrman has taught a variety of grades from second to eighth.

She said she’s excited about applying for a grant, hoping to buy books or new technology.

“I sometimes feel you only hear about the negatives in education. It’s nice to see the positives and be recognized,” Herrman said.

Rachel Fielhauer had stopped into the office at Carson Elementary School to pick up a testing booklet when she was surprised by Hawk and Evans.

A math coach, Fielhauer works with students from kindergarten to fifth grade.

She’s already thinking about ways she can use the grant money to help students and staff.

“I didn’t go into teaching to be recognized but I don’t know a single teacher who doesn’t work hard every single day,” she said. “I’m trying my best every day and it’s nice to have that recognition.”

2015 Leaders for Learning awards winners

- Gayle Cronin, C-TEC

- Leslie Hopping, Granville Intermediate School, Granville Exempted Village Schools
- Jennifer Willoughby, Garfield Elementary School, Heath City Schools
- Alisa Zink, Adams Middle School, Johnstown-Monroe Local Schools
- Todd Hawk, Lakewood Middle School, Lakewood Local Schools
- Emily Steed, Licking County Educational Service Center
- Shawn Walter, Licking Heights North Elementary School, Licking Heights Local School District
- Sandra Lucas, Licking Valley Elementary School, Licking Valley Local Schools
- Rachel Fielhauer, Carson Elementary School, Newark City Schools
- Shellie Herrmann, Wilson Middle School, Newark City Schools
- Juliana Porter, Newark High School, Newark City Schools
- Mary Schraer, Newton Elementary School, North Fork Local School District
- Jackie Livingston, Northridge High School, Northridge Local School District
- Jennifer Johnson, Kirkersville Elementary School, Southwest Licking Local Schools