

Rotary Club Presents Urbandale High School Nurse With Hero In Education Award

Brenda Ness receives the 2016 Ken Lepley Memorial Hero in Education Award for her leadership, expertise and compassion for students and families in the Urbandale Community School District

URBANDALE, Iowa – August 5, 2016 – The [Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines](#) recently celebrated the outstanding leadership, keen expertise and wholehearted compassion Brenda Ness provides students, families and colleagues at [Urbandale High School \(UHS\)](#) by presenting her with the 2016 Ken Lepley Memorial Hero in Education Award as well as \$500 to use toward professional development or school supplies. The annual Hero in Education Award is presented to an educator that has gone above and beyond the responsibilities of a professional educator. Ness, who began as a school nurse in the Urbandale Community School District (UCSD) in 1992, is seen as an empowering leader among her peers and a trusted resource among students and families. She currently serves approximately 1,250 students and over 115 staff members. Even with the ever-growing responsibilities and requirements for school nurses, Ness makes time to serve as a highly-valued member of the UHS Leadership Team, a vital contributor on the UHS Attendance Committee and an essential member of the UHS Student Study Team.



Brenda Ness (right) receives the Ken Lepley Memorial Hero in Education Award from Committee Chairman Dr. Roger D. Nyberg, Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines with Dr. Keri Schlueter (left).

“Brenda Ness is an amazing individual,” said UCSD Coordinator of Student Services Dr. Keri Schlueter. “She truly makes a difference in the lives of students and staff in Urbandale. She exemplifies our commitment to the well-being of students every day.”

The contribution and impact that Ness has on the lives of UHS students is both profound and unequivocal. Profound in her utmost dedication to nurturing relationships, building connections and providing medical expertise that students, families and staff have come to rely on. Unequivocal in her seemingly innate abilities to identify a student’s concern, determine the best course for assistance and ensuring throughout the process that each student feels heard, understood and valued. These qualities,

among many more too numerous to mention, help paint the picture as to how Ness fully embodies ‘service above self’ which is the foundation for the Hero in Education Award.

“I am truly honored to receive the Rotary’s Hero in Education Award,” said Ness. “The Urbandale School District strives to continually improve the quality of learning for our students and we are fortunate to have the community support from organizations like the Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines.”

Ness ensures the school nursing teams stay abreast of new regulations and connected to community resources. She is known for being a passionate advocate for student and staff well-being, a positive and encouraging mentor and someone who sets the bar high—while lending a hand to ensure everyone is given opportunities to reach their greatest potential. UCSD congratulates Ness on receiving this notable award and is grateful for the countless ways in which she supports Urbandale students, staff and families. To learn more about how Urbandale is transforming education in order to give students greater ownership and voice, visit: UrbandaleSchools.com and follow on Twitter [@UrbandaleSchool](https://twitter.com/UrbandaleSchool).

About Rotary

Rotary International is an organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service and help to build goodwill and peace in the world. There are 1.2 million Rotary members in 34,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Rotary clubs have been serving communities worldwide for more than a century. The first Rotary club was founded in Chicago in 1905. To learn more about the Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines, visit <http://portal.clubrunner.ca/1664>

About Urbandale Community School District

The Urbandale Community School District includes portions of Des Moines and Urbandale, Iowa. The District serves over 3,900 students in six elementary schools, one middle school and one comprehensive high school. The Urbandale District supports an increasingly diverse student population where 47 languages are spoken. Building on the existing foundation of excellence in education, Urbandale is transforming education throughout the District. By implementing innovative [Quality/Continual Improvement](#) strategies that create learning environments that more fully engage, challenge and motivate students, Urbandale is taking transformation from theory into practice. Urbandale prepares students for becoming lifelong learners and is a school district that brings learning to life for everyone. To learn more, visit: UrbandaleSchools.com and follow on Twitter [@UrbandaleSchool](https://twitter.com/UrbandaleSchool).

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