

Urbandale Middle School Teacher Receives 2016 Educator Of The Year Award

The Urbandale Chamber honored Urbandale Middle School Math Teacher Karli Keithahn with the renowned 2016 Educator of the Year Award

URBANDALE, Iowa – May 2, 2016 – On April 28, 2016, the Urbandale Chamber of Commerce presented the Educator of the Year Award to [Urbandale Middle School](#) Math Teacher Karli Keithahn during a surprise presentation at an all-school assembly. Keithahn has been teaching seventh-grade math at Urbandale Middle School for five years and just recently completed her Master’s in Professional Education.

Keithahn begins with the assumption of competence for all students as she believes in their capacity to learn at high levels. She has redesigned her classroom into a learning system whose aim is continual improvement. Students feel comfortable learning at their own pace, providing feedback for how to improve the classroom system and demonstrating their learning with the knowledge that Keithahn is a partner in their education. This sense of partnership and unwavering support for each of her students is not only reflected in the positive comments students share about her class, but is evident as students demonstrate proficiency on their essential standards.

“I am so happy for Ms. Keithahn in being recognized as the Urbandale Educator of the Year,” said Urbandale Middle School Principal Loren DeKruyf. “She is an outstanding teacher who has a highly engaging math classroom. While Karli makes math fun to learn, she also maintains high expectations for all of her students resulting in high levels of learning. Congratulations, Karli!”



Urbandale Chamber presenting Karli Keithahn 2016 Educator of the Year Award. Front row: Urbandale Middle School Principal Loren DeKruyf, Chair of the Urbandale Chamber Matt Nuetzman, 2016 Educator of the Year Karli Keithahn and President of the Urbandale Chamber Tiffany Menke. Back row: Urbandale Chamber Director of Investor Relations Mary Harken, Mark Courter, Rasheila Dolleman, Vice

Chair of Urbandale Chamber Lori Gelhaar and Director at Large of Urbandale Chamber Ben Buenzow. Photo courtesy of the Urbandale Chamber of Commerce.

“It was a huge honor to be recognized by the Urbandale Chamber,” said Keithahn. “I consider myself incredibly lucky to be able to come to work each day and do the job that I love! It wouldn’t be possible without the support and encouragement from my co-workers and administration!”

In addition to being highly respected and admired by students, Keithahn is also seen as a trusted peer and confidant by colleagues. Her exceptional capacity for collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving and leadership is positively impacting the culture and climate. She serves on multiple committees supporting Urbandale Middle School and the District, and is an involved Urbandale Education Foundation Board Member.

The Urbandale Community School District congratulates Keithahn on receiving the 2016 Educator of the Year Award and is thankful for her extraordinary dedication to her students and colleagues.

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 51 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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