



Established 1959

PACE

April 24, 2025

A Publication of Canton Professional Educators' Association

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SPECIAL AWARDS EDITION

ALL NOMINEES TO BE HONORED!

The CPEA Building Representatives had a difficult decision to make at their April 14th meeting. They had to select the CPEA Educator of the Year from the following list of extremely qualified, dedicated and highly respected nominees:

Paula Kliem

Kindergarten Teacher at AIM Academy

Tim Smith

Math Teacher at McKinley High School

Peggy Wagner

Intervention Specialist at Choices High School

Karen Zutali

Instructional Coach at Choices High School

CONGRATULATIONS!

The 2024-2025 CPEA "EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR" is . . .

Karen Zutali



"Karen is the kind of educator we all aspire to be – steadfast, deeply knowledgeable, fiercely devoted to her students, and endlessly inspiring to those lucky enough to work alongside her."

"Karen has served the education community for over 38 years, and in that time, she has not only amassed an impressive body of professional expertise, but also the admiration and respect of countless colleagues, students, and families." . . .

Amanda Gillespie

Karen has taught in Canton City Schools for 37 years and 7 months. In addition to her teaching position, she currently serves on the Ohio Department of Education's ELA standards setting and range finding committees for Ohio's AIR tests. Karen designed and created the curriculum for a middle school career and technical education course titled Career and College Readiness. She has over 15 years as English Language Art Department Chair and taught middle school English/Language Arts/Reading exclusively for 25 years. Karen currently serves on the CPEA Executive Leadership Team as Secretary.

"I've had the opportunity to work with Karen in different capacities, including teacher, Instructional Coach, and Writing Specialist. Throughout our time working together, Karen's passion for writing always shines through. Her understanding of teaching students to write is second to none! . . ." **Jolinda Seiple**

"I had the honor of serving as Karen's principal at Souers Middle School during the period between 1989 and 1995. During that time, she proved to be a superior teacher. Her classroom activities were well thought out and age appropriate, and she kept her students actively engaged in the lessons....She always stood up for her students and herself even if it meant letting me know how she felt about a certain issue upon which we disagreed. Her answer was, 'I'll do it, but I won't like it!' (said with a sly grin of approval and little side eye)". . . ." **Joseph Andaloro**

"I met Karen through Belinda Manard. I can still hear her saying, 'You have got to meet Karen Zutali. She loves writing almost as much as you do!'" Karen. . kind, helpful, supporting, reliable, my friend, a constant in my life. . . ." **Dr. Bernetta Harrell-Snell**

"Karen Loutzenheiser Zutali embodies everything this award represents She is not only an exceptional teacher, but also a leader, advocate, mentor, and role model. I can think of no one more deserving of the CPEA Teacher of the Year honor."

Congratulations to Karen! She will be presented with her award at the annual CPEA Spring Banquet at LaPizzaria on Monday, May 12th, 2025.

2024-2025 CPEA AWARD WINNERS



“Layperson of the Year” Award
Officer Lamar Sharpe

“Community Partnership” Award
Be A Better Me Foundation

Nathaniel Roberts Scholarship Recipients
Tooba Sindu, Early College High School
Henry Tobias, Mckinley Senior High School

Samuel J. Dorto, Jr. Scholarship Recipient
Jalynn Daviduk, McKinley Senior High School

Yvonne Parks Scholarship Recipient
Mariah McClain, McKinley Senior High School

Recipients of the CPEA Memorial Scholarship will be announced on May 5, 2025.

STARK EDUCATION CELEBRATION NOMINEES

The Canton City Schools’ nominees for this year’s Stark Education Celebration are:

Erik Escola / Timken CTE - Teacher of the Year, and Kirston Moriconi / AIM - Rookie of the Year
Congratulations!

Anyone wishing to help honor these award winners at the annual CPEA Spring Banquet at LaPizzaria on Monday, May 12, 2025 may make a reservation by calling the CPEA Office or returning the form below.



CPEA Spring Banquet Reservation Form
Monday, May 12, 2025 – LaPizzaria
Social/Cash Bar 5:30 - Program begins at 6:00 p.m.

Name(s) _____ Bldg. _____

Number attending _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____ (\$30/person)

Make checks payable to CPEA

Dinner is served Family Style and includes: Salad, Parmesan Crusted Chicken, Lightly Seasoned Scrod, Sausage & Peppers, Fresh Beans, Roasted Potatoes, Penne Pasta in Marinara, Dessert & Beverage.

Please return this form and payment to the CPEA Office by Wednesday, May 7, 2025.