

2007 WBITE AWARDS

The Annual WBITE Conference in Missoula, Montana, concluded February 18 with the Awards Program. The following WBITE members were recognized for their work and effort on behalf of their state, territory, or province.

Robert J Thompson Membership Award – Jean Hara, Hawai'i

WBITE STP Newsletter Recognition Program

- ✚ Hawai'i Business Education Association - Emi Troeger & Ellen Nagaue, Co-Editors
- ✚ Nevada Business Education Association - Robert Bencivenga, Editor
- ✚ *The Educator* (WSBEA) – Pam Weigand, Editor

WBITE Distinguished Service – Kay Fujimoto Ono, Hawai'i

Nominated for her consistently strong leadership and service to WBITE, Kay is very deserving indeed. She has served tirelessly as an officer and committee member, providing quality work and motivation. Her strong drive and sense of humor helps everyone succeed in stressful situations. Always a consummate hostess, these qualities were evident during the last WBITE conference where she served as conference chair for Hawai'i 2006 and made each and every conference attendee feel welcomed.

Her presence in Hawai'i can be felt by the offices and committee memberships she has held. Serving HBEA as vice president, president, past president, historian, and nominating committee chair are just examples of her service and professionalism to her colleagues on the islands. She champions, nurtures, mentors, and motivates all around her to give the best that is within them.

And as her friend and colleague, Jean Hara, wrote about her:

Everyone should be so lucky to have a true friend who is not afraid to be your personal critic, editor, cheerleader, and censor. Having a person stand by your side when difficult decisions have to be made, when family members pass away, when you need someone to share your tears, and when you need a pat on the back or hug is a priceless and irreplaceable blessing.

WBITE Outstanding Business Educator: Post Secondary – Roy Kamida, Leeward Community College, Hawai'i

A devoted teacher for 25+ years, Roy has proven to be a forward thinking instructional leader. He is constantly looking for ways to enhance the learning process through innovative teaching techniques and the use of technology as a tool for learning. He was one of the first in his department to utilize WebCT as a supplement to his classes.

As an instructional leader, Roy continues to look for ways to improve program requirements and to create new programs that will meet the needs of the business industry. While a division chair in the Business Technology Program at Leeward Community College, additional programs were created that would be viable in the future. On campus, he is known as visionary in staying current program offerings.

Working within the community, Roy mentors students in a campus program, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). This program gives students a chance to assist community members in the preparation of individual tax forms while learning about the various tax codes and forms. In addition to this work, he teaches non-credit classes to remain connected to the community. He uses this opportunity to encourage students to work towards a degree if it will meet the needs of the student. He patiently trouble-shoots problems faculty and staff have with technology and Office Suite documents. He is known by many as "*the human encyclopedist*" because of his vast knowledge about technology.

WBITE Outstanding Educator: High School Level – Eileen Wascisin, Lynden High School, Washington

A business teacher for the past 34 years, Eileen has been an advocate for business education in Washington State. Serving on the WSBEA Board in a variety of leadership positions, she has proven to be a capable, caring, thoughtful, and thinking leader. She has an extensive background in business education and communications and has participated in the planning of workshops for teachers.

Never one to make a decision without considering all possible outcomes, Eileen continues to share with her colleagues her strong commitment to education, learning and student achievement. Her strong desire to make a contribution to education is demonstrated by her commitment to the improvement and growth of the Business Education in Washington. She is the consummate business educator, always creating, designing and implementing curriculum improvements.

Motivated, Activated, Dedicated--She is a **MAD** Business Educator. She is professional to the core; concerned for program, for students, for the Association.

Her superintendent had this to say about Eileen:

One of the greatest compliments I can pay to Eileen is noting that she is a true professional. She advocates strongly for her programs and students in an appropriate and professional manner... Eileen has become one of my trusted advisors that I can go to when I need information or advice concerning vocational programs, computer applications in the classroom setting, or to upgrade my knowledge base concerning business education programs.

WBITE Outstanding Career and Technical Student Organization Advisor – Jean Hyde, Burlington-Edison High School, Washington

Jean has been in the classroom for almost 20 years. During that time, she has been one of nine regional advisors; charged with administrative duties within the individual regions as well as responsible for the administration of the state conference. Jean is a respected advisor, one many look up to for advice and knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of chapter advisor.

Washington State FBLA Executive Director and Program Specialist had this to say about Jean:

Without writing a long dissertation, we'd like to describe Jean Hyde in a few words. We're familiar with Jean's teaching but know her best as an FBLA adviser. Jean never ceases having a positive attitude. She's deeply dedicated to her students and is innovative in finding solutions to situations to result in the best outcome for all. Her compassion guides her in difficult situations. She's a team player and volunteers to help whenever there is a need. Jean is enthusiastic about teaching and FBLA, and her sense of humor - always appropriately timed - is a joy. Jean's dedication to teaching is evident with the continuous and obvious success of her students in FBLA state office positions and competitive events. Jean, you deserve this award. You're outstanding in every way!

WBITE President's Award – Francine Svaren, Hardin, Montana

Fran Svaren has been an educator, advisor, mentor, and a friend for the past 33 years.

As an educator at Hardin High School, she began her teaching career as a Special Education teacher. She developed the Special Education Program so that those students gained self-worth, developed employable skills, and were employed in various Hardin businesses. She taught them that they were individuals who could contribute to society.

After many years as a Special Education teacher, Fran was given the opportunity to become the Home Economics instructor and the chapter advisor to the Future Career and Community Leaders of America Hardin High School. She prepared lessons that involve current issues. She took extra time to develop handouts and class projects that would let students become involved in real-world situations. She spent countless hours helping students so that No Child was ever Left Behind in her classes. Her students respected her for her ability as an instructor but also felt confident enough to discuss matters with her that most of them would never mention to their parents.

As the advisor for the Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), her chapter received the Red Rose Chapter Award for several years, had numerous state and national winners, state officers, and was involved in variety of community service projects. Some of those projects included selling spook insurance at Halloween, making and selling rosettes and pacos, Kiss the Pig contests, and painting business store windows. The members of the FCCLA chapter and Business Professionals of America joined together to hold officer installations, prepare luncheons for teacher conferences, decorated the local Safeway store which won them equipment for Hardin High School for two years. Her strong leadership and organizations skills helped make her chapter one of the best in the State of Montana. She was awarded the FCCLA Distinguished Service Award which recognizes outstanding contributions and continuing service to the national organization by individuals whose

responsibilities are directly related to Family Career and Community Leaders of America.

After retiring from the classroom, Fran went to work for a local veterinarian. In this new occupation, she designed and remodeled the office, learned how to network computers, and become the bookkeeper. Her friendly and efficient manner brought in new clients to the business.

Fran returned to the Hardin School system as a Parent Advocate. Once again she has an impact on children and parents. She organizes family activities and game nights. She provides instruction to parents on budgeting, check management, and fun activities to do with a child that encourages reading and math applications.

During the 33 years of working with Francine, she has always been supportive of business education. She helped setup schedules, categorize materials, create centerpieces, and judge events at the Business Professionals of America regional conferences. She has been involved with three WBITE conferences in Montana by contributing her organizational skills, her creative ideas, and enumerable hours of work to help make WBITE conferences a success. This year she sewed all the jean bags and mittens for this conference.

Fran has always been a mentor and has given encouragement and support. She is a terrific travel companion. Most importantly she is a caring and enthusiastic person who shares her special talents.