



GUIDING LIGHT AWARD

PRESENTED TO:

CRAIG BENES

The Guiding Light Award honors individuals who inspire excellence and elevate the community through their leadership and mentorship. This award celebrates those who, through their guidance, have fostered growth in behavior, performance, education, or employment skills, contributing to a stronger and more vibrant community.

Nominated by: Heidi Weeks

Summary of Nomination:

Craig has transformed District 10 into a place where students, teachers, and families can thrive. Through thoughtful updates to core curriculums, the expansion of full-day kindergarten, and expanded support for Diverse Learners and English Language Learners, he has ensured that every student has the tools and opportunities to succeed. His focus on creating safe, welcoming, and inspiring learning environments—including playgrounds, libraries, technology, and school facilities—has left a lasting mark on the district.

Beyond tangible improvements, Craig has been a mentor and guide for staff and emerging leaders, fostering a culture of collaboration, growth, and excellence. He has championed programs in fine arts, world languages, and athletics, and led the district with integrity and vision through challenging times, including the pandemic. His decisions balanced student safety, educational continuity, and family needs, reflecting his thoughtful and student-centered leadership.

Under Craig's guidance, District 10 earned three ISBE Exemplary designations, a rare distinction that highlights the lasting impact of his work.

On behalf of the Village, we honor Craig with the Guiding Light Award, celebrating his mentorship, vision, and unwavering commitment to students, staff, and the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Pruyn", with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Mayor Jeff Pruyn

September 7, 2025