

2017 Educator of the Year

Jeffrey Kajs, Lewisville High School Principal, is the 2017 CISNT Educator of the Year! Mr. Kajs is an educator who is truly “All In For Kids.” He is passionate and dedicated, going above and beyond the call of duty for the students at Lewisville High School (LHS) daily. Though the CISNT program at LHS is just four years old, Mr. Kajs and his staff have worked diligently to ensure that it runs seamlessly, working in conjunction with the school’s staff to best serve LHS students in need. There are two key reasons for this CISNT programmatic success on campus: 1) The overall environment of student empowerment and support that Mr. Kajs has created at LHS; and 2) His emphasis strong on team collaboration.



Principal Kajs and his team at Lewisville High School – Main Campus

The school environment at LHS demonstrates daily to its students that success is more than just passing a test, but also includes one’s character and the impact that they have on the people around them. Mr. Kajs encourages his staff to not only be teachers in the classroom, but also teachers in life by providing a listening ear to students, helping them tackle barriers, and teaching them that it’s okay to ask for help. This year, he spent money from a very tight campus budget to provide poverty simulation training to his staff because he recognizes that it is paramount for them to understand and be able to empathize with the daily barriers that so many LHS students face.

When the CISNT program opened at LHS in 2013 a new and vulnerable population of unaccompanied homeless youth at the school were uncovered. Mr. Kajs did not skip a beat in supporting CISNT’s work in the community to educate and advocate for these students. He did not see homelessness a “problem” that needs to be kept quiet, but as a situation that students need support to overcome and he looked to CISNT and his team of counselors, assistance principals, and teachers to address the student and/or family’s needs and broker resources from the community to remove the resulting educational barriers. This collaboration between the CISNT Site Coordinator, teachers, and counselors that works to address major issues is key to student success on campus. By recognizing the value of students being able to regularly interact with CISNT program, whether that is meeting consistently with their mentor, working with tutors to stay on top of classwork, meeting with college prep coaches, or participating in counseling groups for emotional support, Mr. Kajs and his team set the students in the CISNT program and our students up for success. This strong commitment to has greatly contributed to the LISD dropout rate decreasing 1.7% between the 2013-2014 school year when CISNT opened at LHS and the following 2014-2015 school year. This is demonstrative of the amazing things we can accomplish when we work together!

“At Communities In Schools of North Texas, we are grateful to work with so many fabulous principals and teachers. The CISNT Educator of the Year award honors a person who goes beyond the walls of a classroom to ensure that students have every opportunity to be successful. Mr. Kajs has never hesitated when asked for help. Whether asked to implement a new program to serve students, to listen to a student’s story and help with creative solutions, or to simply allow CISNT to hold meetings and site visits at LHS, Mr. Kajs’s answer is always yes. Mr. Kajs is a wonderful example of an educator who is “All in For Kids.” He does not see a student’s barrier or struggle as something that defines the student or the school, but instead sees opportunities that create character and perseverance within a person and the community. Mr. Jeff Kajs was nominated for this award because we believe he embodies the Communities In Schools motto: “Programs don’t change people – relationships do” and he creates a campus environment that embodies that motto as well.” – Tasha Moore, CISNT Chief Strategy Officer



**Communities In Schools of North Texas
End of Year Banquet – *Celebrating Successes*
Friday, April 28, 2017, 11:30 AM – 1:00PM
#AllInForKids**

We hope that you will join us on April 28th at Circle R Ranch in Flower Mound for the 2nd annual CISNT End of Year Banquet – *Celebrating Successes*, as we formally honor Jeffrey Kajs as our 2017 CISNT Educator of the Year! We will also award our 2017 Student of the Year and 2017 Volunteer of the Year, as well as take the opportunity to show all our wonderful volunteer, donors, partners, and advocates how appreciated they are! Details and RSVP information can be found on our website at <http://cisnt.org/events/event/cisntbanquet> or you can request more info by email at banquet@cisnt.org

This award is still awaiting sponsorship (details below), so email us at banquet@cisnt.org if your business or organization would like to help us award this amazing principal who is truly “All In For Kids!”

2017 Educator of the Year Sponsor

This exclusive sponsorship will provide premier guest status at the CISNT End of Year banquet—*Celebrating Success*, where over 300 CISNT volunteers, partners, donors, and advocates from across Denton and Wise Counties will gather to celebrate the end of another great school year, as well as officially honor our 2017 Educator of the Year, Student of the Year, and Volunteer of the Year. Sponsor today and show your colleagues and community that you are #AllInForKids!

- One premier reserved table of 8 with company logo prominently displayed. (*Note: Tickets to this event are free of charge to all CISNT volunteers, donors, advocates, and partners. Your premier table reservation will ensure a reserved space at the front of the venue, as well as an opportunity to advertise and be recognized with your company logo printed on the table. You may choose to fill all 8 seats but are not required to.*)
- Recognition as Educator of the Year Sponsor with company logo on social media and on CISNT website.
- Publicity shot with CISNT staff at location of sponsor’s choice. (May choose a CISNT school campus, if desired.)
- Half page advertisement inside program with company logo, to be approved by sponsor. (Must commit by April 14th.)
- Recognition as Educator of the Year Sponsor from podium at time of award presentation.
- Recognition in multimedia presentation during event.
- Company logo in CISNT e-newsletter with distribution to 6,000+ people.

Educator of the Year Sponsorship is a tax-deductible donation to Communities In Schools of North Texas (CISNT) in the amount of \$3,000 and includes all of the above. All donations from sponsorships will go to CISNT programs, serving over 4,000 students in need across Lewisville, Lake Dallas, Denton, Little Elm, Northwest, and Bridgeport Independent School Districts.