

Nienhaus to receive 2014 Scullen Leadership Award

Jen Zettel 7:07 p.m. CDT April 21, 2014



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APPLETON – Mary Beth Nienhaus’ philanthropic endeavors and educational leadership have earned her the 2014 Thomas G. Scullen Leadership Award.

Most recently, Nienhaus, a former longtime Appleton Area School District teacher, donated Winagamie Golf Course to the Appleton Education Foundation. The course will be used by the Appleton Area School District and Fox Valley Technical College to expand learning opportunities for students outside the classroom. Its estimated value is more than \$2.5 million.

The Scullen award recognizes a Fox Cities resident for contributions to educational excellence in the Fox Cities, and is given annually in memory of the former Appleton schools superintendent who died in 2007. Nienhaus will receive the award tonight at AEF’s annual Celebrate Education dinner and award event at FVTC.

Nienhaus' legacy of giving to AEF goes back to 1997, when she donated \$200,000 for the renovations at Goodland Field. Nienhaus Sports Complex is now home to the Appleton West baseball, softball and soccer teams. In 2011, she donated a matching gift of \$100,000 to West for improved physical education and athletic facilities.

Nienhaus is president and director of instruction for the Winagamie Golf Foundation, which supports the Winagamie Junior Golf Academy.

Nienhaus said she was surprised and humbled by the award. She taught at Appleton West for 28 years and coached there for 25 years. Scullen became superintendent during the last few years of her career. To receive the award given in his name is an honor, she said.

"I thought he was an excellent superintendent. He had a business sense about him. He was very collaborative with the Appleton community, and certainly a leader," Nienhaus said. "I'm quite surprised to be considered (for the award)."

Susan May, president of FVTC, nominated Nienhaus for the award because of her bold leadership, her philanthropic nature and her dedication to education in the Fox Cities.

"Her commitment and her generosity about making resources available that will help students well into the future is a wonderful foundation for this award," May said.

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