



North Cedar Community School District

ALUMNI AWARDS

Alumni Awards honor graduates of North Cedar High School or one of the former districts that now make up North Cedar. Awards are given to alums in recognition of their professional achievements, service to non-profits, community impact, fine arts accomplishments and/or athletic excellence. Nominees are reviewed and recipients are selected by a committee made up of school and community representatives.

Alumni Community Impact Award

William Bails



William Bails is a lifelong resident of Stanwood and 1967 graduate of Lincoln High School. He started his coaching career as a little league baseball coach in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Then, for nearly 30 years, Bill served the

Lincoln and North Cedar Schools as bus driver, coach and activities director. During his tenure he coached baseball, basketball, cross country, track, softball, volleyball and free-style wrestling. He also served as president of the Lincoln Athletic Boosters for 11 years.

Bill is or has been the race director for the Road Runner 5k, The Whistle Stop 5k, The Believe 5k, The Run for Reading 5k, The Junction Juggernaut 5k, The Running with the Legends 5k, The H.A.W.K. 5k and many other local road races that he was asked to lead. He was also the Elite Athlete Coordinator for the 5th Season 8k for seven years, recruiting athletes from all over the world. Bill has helped raise more than \$140,000 to support charitable needs that benefit municipal and school projects, provide financial relief to people suffering illnesses and support individuals with special needs.

Bill is currently a brand ambassador for Reckless Running and RunGum. Both are organizations headed by Olympic athletes. He has also volunteered at numerous world-class events such as the Olympic trials for track and field and wrestling. Bill has spoken at several venues about "Perseverance with Perspective." This includes a speech at the National Cancer Survivor Day as the keynote speaker and to many college and high school athletic teams. Bill is co-director of the Take Down Cancer collegiate wrestling

event with proceeds going directly to the Hall Perrine Cancer Center, Cedar Rapids.

To date, Bill has run in 824 road races throughout the U.S. and Canada. In 1994, he ran 334 miles across Iowa in eight days and raised \$5,000 to help in the construction of a new library in Stanwood. Key accomplishments include running in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life as a one-man team, Boston Marathon and three marathons in one day.

Bill had been invited to run in the Indianapolis Monumental Marathon but because of his ongoing battle with cancer was unable to do so, but did run in the 5k. This past June, Bill and his son, Joe, traveled to Indianapolis to film a segment for ABC News about running with cancer and the marathon. A documentary featuring Bill should be completed later this winter. A book is also in the works.

Along with his work in athletics, he owned and operated Road Runner Detail Shop in Stanwood and he and his wife, Kathy, operated Tipton Motel for a time. Bill has served on the Stanwood city council, North Cedar Education Foundation and Cedar County Civil Service Commission.

In addition to Joe, Bill and his wife have a daughter, Crystal, and seven grandchildren.

Alumni Achievement Award

Judy Busby, Ph.D.



Judy (Moore) Busby is a 1984 graduate of Clarence-Lowden High School and the daughter of Vince and the late Beverly Moore. In high school, she was a four-year member of the basketball team and served on National Honor Society. She earned her undergraduate degree in aerospace engineering from Iowa State University

2015-16 Alumni Award Recipients

Alumni Community Impact Award

William Bails

Alumni Achievement Award

Judy Busby

Alumni Service Award

Curtis Freese

Alumni Athletic Award

Ryan Kedley

Alumni Achievement Award

Lori Norton-Meier

sity and received a master's degree in aerospace engineering and Ph.D. in engineering from Mississippi State University.

Judy has worked in the turbomachinery design and analysis field for more than 20 years. Her Ph.D. is in the area of computational fluid dynamics (CFD) as applied to turbomachinery. She began her career working with the U.S. Navy to model unsteady flow interaction in submarine propulsors. The goal of this work was to reduce the noise signature of the submarines. She then moved to private industry and worked for Pratt & Whitney. In this position she collaborated on tiger teams that were formed to investigate critical issues or performance shortfalls on aircraft engines. She also led the systems integration team for the JSF135 propulsion team.

Tiring of the East Coast, she moved to Denver and to a small business that designed and manufactured specialty turbomachinery. In this position she wore two hats: lead aerodynamic/hydrodynamic designer and project manager. She designed everything from computer cooling fans to turbochargers to rocket turbopumps. As a project manager, she was responsible for all phases of the design, manufacturing and testing for projects in the aerospace, energy and military industries.

Currently, Judy is self-employed as a consulting engineer. Her work involves oversight of military rocket launches, design of various turbomachinery products and engineering direction for HVAC programs.

Judy resides in Golden, Colo. In addition to her professional interests, she enjoys gardening, home rehabs, horses and motorcycle riding.



**Thank you to the
North Cedar Education
Foundation for financially
supporting the Alumni
Awards and Reception.**

Alumni Service Award Curtis Freese, Ph.D.



Curtis Freese, son of Herb and Verda Freese, grew up with his brothers, Fred and Roger, on a farm between Clarence and Lowden. He graduated from Clarence High School in 1966 and earned a B.S. in fish and wildlife biology from Iowa

State University in 1970. Curt subsequently joined Peace Corps to help explore new parks in Costa Rica and then traveled throughout the Amazon conducting primate research. He received a Ph.D. in ecology from Johns Hopkins University in 1977.

Curt was hired in 1978 by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C. to launch a program of training and technical assistance to parks and wildlife agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 1983, he went to work with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) where he became vice-president for conservation programs in Africa, Asia and Latin American, as well as Conservation Science.

In 1991, Curt, his wife, Heather, and their one-year-old daughter, Erica, moved to Bozeman, Mont. Curt remained with WWF as a senior fellow and conducted research on the links between economics and biodiversity conservation in regions ranging from the tropics to the Arctic, which resulted in three books exploring this topic. During this period, he was also assistant director of the Center for High Elevation Studies at Montana State University and executive director of the nonprofit Yellowstone Ecosystem Studies.

In 2001, Curt cofounded and was the first executive director of the American Prairie Reserve, a nonprofit land trust with the goal of building wildlife reserves on more than three million acres on the plains of northeast Montana. In 2002, Curt launched WWF's U.S.-Canadian Northern Great Plains Program with a focus on endangered species conservation and helping to build the American Prairie Reserve. His work on bison led him to co-edit a book on their conservation in 2008.

In 2007, the Chicago Zoological Society awarded Curt the George B. Rabb Conservation Award "in recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of wildlife conservation."

Curt has also served as adjunct professor and on various nonprofit conservation boards.

Curt and his wife now reside in Longmont, Colo., where he continues his research and writing on biodiversity conservation while still periodically venturing internationally to areas of conservation interest—most recently Antarctica. He stays involved as a national council member in building the American Prairie Reserve and is currently writing a book on restoring Reserve's remarkable wildlife heritage.

Alumni Athletic Award Ryan Kedley



Ryan Kedley, son of Patrick and Peggy Kedley, grew up in Lowden with siblings Kate and Daniel. He graduated from North Cedar High School in 2000, holding school track records in the 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m,

4x100, 4x200, 4x400 and distance medley relays. Ryan also graduated as the school record holder in career points, assists and steals in basketball.

Ryan was the Iowa state champion in the 400m dash in 1999 and 2000, and the state champion in the 200m dash in 1999. He set Iowa's all-time, all-class state record in the 400m dash, the 400m all-time state meet record and the all-time class 2A record in the 200m dash. As a senior, Ryan participated in the Golden West Invitational Track and Field Meet in Sacramento, Calif., and placed third in the nation. Ryan was a member of the 2000 basketball state qualifier team, named first team all-state and was the Big East Conference MVP twice.

Ryan attended the University of Northern Iowa where he was a two-time NCAA All-American, Drake Relays Champion and three-time Missouri Valley Conference Champion. He graduated from UNI on the dean's list with two UNI all-time school records in the 4x400 indoor and outdoor relays.

In 2007, Ryan completed the 33rd Basic Department of Public Safety Academy at Camp Dodge, Johnston, Iowa. Since 2007, he has been a Special Agent with the Major Crimes Unit of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation. He lives in DeWitt with his wife Kathleen and their two children, Luke and Cormac.

Alumni Achievement Award Lori Norton-Meier, Ph.D.



Lori Norton-Meier remembers first deciding to become a researcher as a young child when she became concerned that the drought had dried up the creek in Lowden and the crawdads that she found would

soon die. Sitting at the dinner table with her parents brainstorming solutions to this prob-

lem, her father provided the funding for her first research project—\$1.19 for three boards to build a dam to attempt to capture the small trickle of water to save the "critters."

A 1983 graduate of Clarence-Lowden High School, she went on to attend Iowa State University where she majored in child development. It was there that Lori was first encouraged to be an educational researcher when she assisted in collecting data on a study related to the role of children's play in their learning at the ISU Child Development Laboratory School.

After seven years of teaching in the Des Moines Public Schools in inner-city classrooms for kindergarten children and their families; she pursued her dream to be an educational researcher at the University of Iowa, receiving a doctorate in Language, Literacy and Culture in 1998. Her research was driven by what she learned as a kindergarten teacher in a school where many of her students lived in poverty and for whom English was a second language.

After graduation, she worked in Kansas as an assistant professor, first at Wichita State University and then at Kansas State University, before finding her way back to Iowa State University. In 2009, she moved to University of Louisville, Kentucky. It is there that she teaches courses for both pre-service and in-service teachers about the role of language, reading and writing in student learning.

Her current work is a 10-year collaboration with Dr. Brian Hand, a science educator from the University of Iowa. Together they created the International Science Literacy Project. This ongoing research study supports the investigation of teacher implementation of argument-based science inquiry and the impact on student learning in preschool through grade 12. This work is made possible with over \$2.5 million in grant funding that she helped secure. She has multiple publications including over 30 journal publications, 14 book chapters and three books on science and literacy in the classroom. In 2011, she was nominated for the American Educational Research Association award for "Relating Research to Practice."

Lori is the daughter of William and Judy Norton and Robert and Eid McAtee. She is married to David Meier and they have two children, Jacob and Jillian, who have been her research subjects and collaborators for many years. Her hobbies include traveling with her family and riding her tandem bike with David.

**Applications for the
2016-17 North Cedar
Alumni Awards
are due Oct. 15, 2016.**

**The nomination form is
available at
www.north-cedar.org**