

# Tuscola alumni Dr. Harris named superintendent of the year in Lake County

Barrington 220 is proud to announce Dr. Brian Harris, Superintendent of Schools, has been named the 2021 Lake County Superintendent of the Year by the Lake County Superintendents' Association.

Dr. Harris was selected for the recognition by his peers, which includes the 55 Superintendents from all Lake County school districts. He currently serves on the IASA (Illinois Association of School Administrators) Government Relations Committee as the Lake County representative and also on the AASA (American Association of School Administrators) Executive Committee at the federal level. Both of these groups provide significant advocacy work for public schools.

"I am honored to be selected as the Lake County Superintendent of the Year among extremely talented educational leaders," Dr. Harris said. "This school year has been extremely challenging for all Superintendents and the collaboration with my Lake County colleagues has been wonderful."

Dr. Harris has served as Barrington 220 Superintendent of Schools since May 2014. During his time in the district he has helped launch several key initiatives including: extended day kindergarten, the One to World program, blended learning, new start times at all 12 Barrington 220 schools and the Blueprint 220 master facilities plan. In addition, Dr. Harris led the school district's information campaign for a \$147 million bond measure, which was approved by more than 60 percent of Barrington area voters in March 2020.

"Congratulations to Dr. Harris on this well-deserved recognition. As a member of the Board that hired Dr. Harris seven years ago, I can attest to the impact of his educational leadership on our district," said Barrington 220 Board President Penny Kazmier. "His vision of having a social emotional dashboard for every student will leave a lasting legacy for years to come. Barrington 220 has been lucky to have him lead our district."

Below are just a few



comments from Dr. Harris' fellow Lake County superintendents.

"Not only has Brian done a great job as superintendent in Barrington, but his involvement at the state and national level in support of educational issues has been remarkable. He consistently represents the best interests of superintendents and students through his work with

AASA and IASA."

"Body of leadership works at the national, state and local levels. A role model for us all and an incredible leader. Brian has been a phenomenal friend, legislative partner and deep thinker. He is so deserving of this honor for his selfless work and creativity as a leader. From the Chinese immersion program to entrepreneurial work

and so much more, Brian has shown us all how to improve PK-12 education."

"Brian is an incredible leader who goes above and beyond to make sure all of us are up to speed with legislative issues. I respect his leadership and believe he deserves the LCS Superintendent of the Year because of his dedication to children and to our group!"

Dr. Harris will retire on June 30, 2021 after working 34 years in public education.

Dr. Brian Harris joined Barrington 220 as the superintendent of schools on May 30, 2014, but he is no stranger to the Barrington area community. From 1993 to 1998, Dr. Harris worked as the assistant principal at Barrington 220's BMS-Station Campus.

Throughout his more than 30 years in public education, he has also worked as an administrator in several large and respected schools districts across the Chicago area. He was superintendent of School District 200 in Wheaton-Warrenville and was an area superintendent of secondary education and

middle school Principal for School District 303 in St. Charles. Dr. Harris began his career as a classroom teacher, coach and administrator for schools in Mt. Prospect, Yorkville and Waterman.

Dr. Harris earned his bachelor's degree in education from the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana and his master's and doctoral degrees in educational leadership from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL. He is often a featured speaker and guest columnist for various conferences and publications.

Dr. Harris grew up in Tuscola, a small town in central Illinois. He and his wife Carol have been married for more than 30 years. They enjoy attending sporting events, watching musical theater and being active with their church. The Harris' have two adult children, Matthew who is married to Grace, and Brooke who is married to Chad. Matthew and Brooke also attended the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana and both currently reside in the Chicago area.

# Carle Health granted Great Place to Work designation for workplace culture

For the fourth consecutive year, Carle Health achieved the designation of a Great Place to Work through a certification process that included an anonymous employee survey.

"This incredible honor is a testament to just what a special organization we are a part of," Lauren Schmid executive vice president and chief human resources officer said. "Even through all the challenges we've faced as a team this year we rank among the nation's best, continuing that pursuit for upper decile quality throughout everything we do."

To achieve a Great Place to Work certification, a randomized sample of employees had the opportunity to

take an anonymous survey in late December, the organization also submitted information about our programs and services. Great Place to Work is a recognized authority on high-trust, high-performance workplace cultures.

"It's so validating to receive this designation because it takes data not only from a third party expert but our very own team members," Schmid said. "While the responses are anonymous, getting to hear some verbatim feedback about what we're doing right, and also where we have an opportunity to improve, helps us grow as an organization and know what areas to focus on."

While there is always a thoughtful approach about



how to move the organization forward, the response to the global pandemic and the past year's national racial justice reckoning influenced some of the areas of focus when creating new team member programs or opportunities for transparency. Extending the footprint of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee, supporting team members feeling a financial strain from the COVID-19 economy stressors, and programs like the Scrub Central exchange were all mentioned as areas of positive progress for the organization.

"Getting a Great Place to Work designation may not be the deciding factor of why someone ultimately joins the Carle Health team, but it

gives confidence to a potential recruit that we are contemporary in our approach to creating a safe and healthy work environment for anyone looking to grow their career in healthcare," Tricia Jones Talent Acquisition director said.

Exceeding industry benchmarks and continuing to look for innovative ways to support team members and providers, both in work and life, is at the core of the Carle culture. Creating that environment supports staff to do what is most important, and supports the health of the communities we serve.

Carle's certification profile may be viewed on the Carle Great Place to Work website.

## Trusted Compassionate Care

*"The most important person in the room is the patient. Our job is to make it the best experience in what may not be the best situation. We work together to make that happen."*

**Kellie Jones-Monahan, MD, FACS**  
General Surgeon

*Welcoming New Patients*





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1000 Health Center Dr., Suite 101  
Mattoon

**217-258-4020**  
[www.sarahbush.org](http://www.sarahbush.org)

## COVID

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pecially those who may be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

\* The Vaccine is an Important Step in Recovery, but it will Require All of Us to Defeat COVID-19: While the arrival of vaccines is good news in the fight to defeat COVID-19, it does not signal an immediate end to the pandemic. Just as we have adopted precautions we all know work - masking, hand hygiene and physical distancing - which we must continue, we now must ensure that all those who are eligible to vaccinate do so. Our hope is simple; we urge you to get the COVID-19 vaccine and share your experience with others.

You play an essential role in keeping your community healthy. Thank you for joining us to learn more. We look forward to the future when the threat of COVID-19 is contained, and we can resume the activities we all treasure. We appreciate your patience and feedback; please know that our state leaders are advancing on this effort with care and swiftness to ensure that Illinois can be on a path to recovery from COVID-19.

To register for the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit <https://covidvaccination.dph.illinois.gov/>; you may need to check back frequently as new sites for vaccination are being added daily.

Please send questions to [DHS.COVID19@illinois.gov](mailto:DHS.COVID19@illinois.gov).

## OSFM

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Keep oxygen containers at least 5-10 feet away from any heat source. Store oxygen canisters safely and securely in the upright position, away from any type of heat source in an approved oxygen storage cart.

**Keep these tips in mind to create a fire safe home:**

- Know two ways out of every room. Practice using both ways.
- Remove any items that may block your way out of the room or your home.
- Discuss your fire escape plan with family and neighbors. Contact your building manager or fire department to discuss your plan if you need extra help escaping.
- Keep eyeglasses, keys, hearing aids and a phone within reach next to your bed.
- Practice your home fire escape drill twice a year.

Join us for an

# OPEN HOUSE

AT **STEEL STAR**

**Friday, March 5 - 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
**& Saturday, March 6 - 7:00 a.m. to Noon**

- Vendors on Site
- Free Food
- Discounts
- Door Prizes
- Demonstrations of Equipment & Designing Program



- Metal Roofing & Siding
- Complete Building Packages
- Custom Trim
- Dimensional Lumber
- Tools & Supplies



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[sales@legacybuildingsupply.com](mailto:sales@legacybuildingsupply.com) ~ [www.legacybuildingsupply.com](http://www.legacybuildingsupply.com)

## HELP WANTED

The Douglas County Soil & Water Conservation District is seeking a part-time administrative coordinator. Applicant must have excellent people skills, with good oral and written communication skills.

The District is multifaceted with different activities and deadlines throughout the year. Previous secretarial and/or agricultural experience with an interest in conservation and natural resources is preferred. QuickBooks (or comparable accounting software) experience is a preferred.

Typical hours are variable and flexible. Most of work is performed in an office setting with some field work. Resumes will be accepted until March 12th 2021 at 4 pm. They can be emailed to [devon.mccumber@il.nacdn.net](mailto:devon.mccumber@il.nacdn.net) or dropped off at the USDA service center 900 S. Washington St, Tuscola.