

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

## Eastern Illinois Foodbank announces Daly as next president and CEO

Eastern Illinois Foodbank (EIF) announced on March 2 that Senior Vice President Kelly Daly has been named President and Chief Executive Officer, replacing Jim Hires who is retiring after 15 years with the organization. Daly will commence her role as President and CEO on April 3, 2021.

Daly, a 22-year veteran of the organization, currently oversees all operational, financial and compliance-related activities at the food bank. As President and CEO, Daly will work closely with staff and community partners to ensure EIF continues to adapt and grow to achieve its mission of alleviating hunger in eastern Illinois.

"Kelly Daly has lived our mission for decades and is positioned to help us emerge into the new normal as we learn the lasting impacts of the COVID pandemic," said EIF Board

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## ISBE seeking nominations for Teacher of the Year and Those Who Excel

Awards recognize the incredible work of Illinois educators, administrators, and school support personnel

The nomination window opened today for the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) Illinois Teacher of the Year and Those Who Excel awards programs. These annual awards recognize the incredible work of teachers, administrators, school support personnel, teams, and community volunteers who have made significant contributions to Illinois' students. ISBE is encouraging every Illinoisan to consider nomi-

nating someone in education who has had a major impact on their life.

These awards take on extra significance this year. Teachers have gone above and beyond to meet the needs of their students, including navigating remote learning and the daily pressures of teaching during a global pandemic. School support personnel, such as school nurses, counselors, custodians, and nutrition profession-

als, have been essential to promoting the well-being of Illinois' students, physically and mentally. The Teacher of the Year and Those Who Excel awards recognize these extraordinary efforts.

"Illinois teachers have long done the heroic work of championing our young people, showing them how to believe in themselves and their abilities," said Governor JB Pritzker. "In response to the COVID-19 pandemic,

they've gone above and beyond time and time again, from hand-delivering homework packets to inventing creative Zoom lessons to guiding their students through the loss of a loved one. And our teachers have done all this while navigating the uncertainties of the last year for themselves, too. More than ever, this is the year to nominate someone in your school community for the work they've done

to make a difference in our children's lives. Our teachers may be superheroes, but they're human, too. Let's offer them a big thank you every way we can."

"I am amazed every single day by our incredible educators," said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala. "During this pandemic, our educators have overcome tremendous challenges for students. Working in education is the

most fulfilling and rewarding career – but that doesn't mean educators don't need to hear 'thank you.' We encourage everyone to think about someone in their school community who is making a positive impact on students and thank them by nominating them for an award."

"Taking the leap of faith and deciding to go through with the application process was one of the best decisions

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## Carmen Morgan honored as VFW outstanding member of the year

By Kendra Hennis

Carmen Morgan, fifth grade history teacher at East Prairie Middle School in Tuscola, was recently honored as the Tuscola VFW T.K. Martin Memorial Post 10009 outstanding member of the year. Post leader Sean Connour explained that every year the members of our Post nominate an outstanding member of the community. The members look for those that

have done excellent meritorious services that promote the values and ideals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. This year the members selected Mrs. Carmen Morgan for this prestigious honor. Mrs. Morgan has been assisting military units by adopting them with her sixth grade class. She is a proud mother of a servicemember herself, and the work in her classroom of teaching Patriotism has

overflowed into the community. In Spring of 2020, Mrs. Morgan approached the T.K. Martin Memorial Post 10009 in Tuscola with an idea to help honor and recognize Tuscola graduates and/or residents that are currently serving in the Armed Forces. Tuscola has had signs up before on Main Street, but there was no program in place at the time to keep track of who was still serving, and those

that had been discharged. Plus, the upkeep and maintenance for those signs was lacking. Mrs. Morgan suggested a display for signs, in one location, in front of Ervin Park in Tuscola. From the very beginning, our Post was on board. Mrs. Morgan reached out to numerous other organizations throughout Tuscola, attended City Council meetings, planned, and organized this whole venture

from word go. Without her hard work and dedication to this project, it would not have happened. Carmen has implemented a program that will be sustainable for years to come, so that we will be able to show our current servicemembers how proud we are of them, as a community. Carmen has also worked closely with the City of Tuscola to help gather the information on current servicemembers

through the City's website. For these reasons, and her love for our Country and our Veterans, we were humbled to present her with the Commendation Medal and certificate.

If anyone is interested in displaying a sign for a service member, they can find the Tuscola Serves application on the City of Tuscola website.



Photos: Tracy Hornaday

Fifth grade teacher Carmen Morgan was recently honored as the VFW T.K. Memorial Post 10009 outstanding service member of the year for her work with the recognition of Tuscola service members with the Tuscola Serves signs.

Rick Hall
For Mayor

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