

Media Release

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Mason City Schools

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Schrock Receives Power of Prevention Award

MHS history teacher **Jerry Schrock** was awarded the 2012 Power of Prevention Award by the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Warren and Clinton Counties during a special presentation to the Mason Board of Education on October 23. Schrock received the award for his ground-breaking work in developing Mason High School's Blue Dot program.

In 2008, Schrock was personally affected by the suicide of his life-long friend. After Mason High School lost a member of its Class of 2014 to suicide in 2010 and 2011, Schrock searched for a way to help students know that no matter the situation there would always be someone they could contact for help. He developed the Blue Dot Conversation Campaign with a very simple message - students who see a blue dot posted on the door, desk, or wall of a classroom, now know that there is someone there who will never be too busy to listen.

"As the Blue Dot Program has grown, students have verbalized how just seeing these blue dots in the windows of the classrooms and on the desks of our staff, it makes them know that there is a place where they can always go when they need someone the most," said **Vycki Haught**, Mason City Schools Community Resource Coordinator.

With the help and guidance of noted anti-bullying suicide prevention author Stan Davis, Schrock has helped to spread the Blue Dot message throughout the state and around the country. Now many districts are presenting a very similar program in their schools to send the message that every student belongs and has a place to go where their concerns will be heard.

"We know from research that youth who have a trusted adult in their lives are more successful and less likely to engage in risky behaviors. We also know that, as this glass award portrays, there are many people in a child's life and it is important that each works together to assist in their success. So, while the program may appear simple, the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Warren and Clinton Counties recognizes the profound impact it has had," said **Patti Ahting**, Chair, Suicide Prevention Coalition of Warren and Clinton Counties.

About the Power of Prevention Award

The Suicide Prevention Coalition of Warren and Clinton Counties began the Power of Prevention Award in 2011 with the purpose of recognizing a person and/or organization who has shown leadership or opened doors above and beyond their job duties. Visit www.mhrsonline.org/suicidepreventioncoalition to learn more about the Coalition.



(left to right) Patti Ahting, Suicide Prevention Coalition of Warren and Clinton Counties, Jerry Schrock, Vycki Haight, Mason City Schools Community Resource Coordinator.