



**2015 Official  
Betsy M. Cowles Leadership Award**



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**Presented by the Buckeye Association of School Administrators**





# Betsy M. Cowles Leadership Award

## Official Nomination Form

Deadline: February 25, 2015

Please type or print legibly

Name:

Katy B. McGrath

BASA Member?  Yes  No Years of continuous service 16

Position Director, Community Relations

Organization Kenston Local School District

Address 17419 Snyder Road

City Chagrin Falls State OH Zip 44023

Telephone (440) 543-9677 Fax (440) 543-8634

Other positions held during the past five years:

Position	Organization	Dates

I. Description of significant contributions/exemplary leadership:

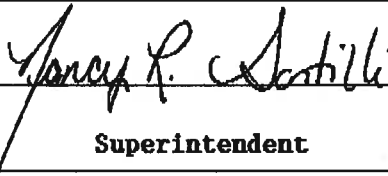
*See attached*

**II. Statement describing how you or the nominated candidate actually enhanced education through exemplary leadership:**

**Submitted by (please print name)**

Nancy R. Santilli

**Signature**



**Title**

Superintendent

**Date**

February 23, 2015

Please return to BASA  
by February 23, 2015

**Buckeye Association of School Administrators**  
8050 N. High Street, Suite 150  
Columbus, OH 43235  
Fax: (614)846-4081



# KENSTON

S C H O O L S

## Kenston Local Schools

17419 Snyder Road  
Chagrin Falls, Ohio  
44023-2730  
Phone: (440) 543-9677  
Fax: (440) 543-8634  
www.kenstonlocal.org

**Nancy R. Santilli**  
*Superintendent*

**Kathleen M. Poe**  
*Assistant Superintendent*

**Candi R. Lukat**  
*Treasurer*

February 23, 2015

Mary Zappitelli/Deb Campbell  
BASA  
Suite 150, 8050 North High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43235

Dear Mary and Deb,

It is my honor to submit my recommendation of Katy McGrath for the Betsy M. Cowles Leadership Award. Katy McGrath could be a name interchanged for "Katy Kenston." Not only is Katy an excellent ambassador of what our school district stands for, she is also nothing short of what we strive to be. Her dedication as an administrator is admirable and she works tirelessly to guarantee Kenstons' success. Katy goes above and beyond her job duties to say the least, which includes but is not limited to staying for far many more hours a day than required, taking on extra duties and special projects, and always finding time to lend a helping hand.

Katy's passion for helping to engage our students and community is deeply rooted here at Kenston. Being a Kenston Bomber herself, she understands the importance of embracing the culture of our community and helping to incorporate the same values and loyalty into our own hallways. Her knowledge of Kenston staff, families, and events is unsurpassable by her attention to detail and willingness adapt to any obstacles. Her communication skills are beyond excellent which is why it never ceases to amaze me that everyone she comes in contact with is blown away by her enthusiasm and professionalism.

With no hesitation, my hopes are that Katy will be considered for this award as she is someone who so deserves. I remain available for any additional information that you may require and am happy to answer any questions.

Thank you for your time,

Nancy Santilli  
Superintendent, Kenston Schools





# Betsy M. Cowles Leadership Award

## Official Nomination Form

Deadline: February 25, 2015

Please type or print legibly

Name:

DEBRA A METTEE

BASA Member?  Yes  No Years of continuous service 18 in Springfield  
38 Total

Position SUPERINTENDENT

Organization SPRINGFIELD LOCAL SCHOOLS (MAHONING COUNTY)

Address 11335 YOUNGSTOWN-PITTSBURGH ROAD

City NEW MIDDLETOWN State OH Zip 44442

Telephone 330 542-2929 (ext. 101) Fax 330 542-9453

Other positions held during the past five years:

Position	Organization	Dates
Ajunct Professor	Youngstown State University	Jan 2013 to Present
First	(appointed by Deb Delisle)	
Chairperson	Youngstown City Schools Academic Distress Com.	3/2010-11/2012
Governing Brd Member	Mahoning Valley Opportunity Center	7/2016 to Present
Executive Committee	BASA	2011-2013

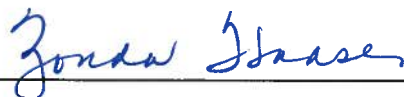
### I. Description of significant contributions/exemplary leadership:

She serves legal counsel for the district, negotiates contracts, develops employment agreements and serves as a resource for all the new and veteran superintendents in the area. She has created a leadership team that incorporates every employee and has been able to pass income taxes and bond issues and maintain Excellent ratings. She has served on the advisory committee to the Supt. of Public Instruction for the state of Ohio for the past three administrations. She chaired the first Academic Distress Commission in Ohio, she serves on the board of a productive and committed community school and was selected by her colleagues to represent them with BASA. She has mentored students, teachers, administrators and superintendents. Her teaching at YSU brings her into contact with students who eventually become colleagues. She sees all the possibilities of a quality education combined with the characteristics of consistency, openness and perseverance as being the strong components of her success and longevity as superintendent. She defines leadership.

**II. Statement describing how you or the nominated candidate actually enhanced education through exemplary leadership:**

The success and stability of the Springfield Local Schools speak highly of her dedicated leadership over these past 18 years. She is a leader in the community, has hired and mentored a talented group of building administrators who have all been together for 10 years, and has worked to build trust and open communication with the employees' associations. Her strong human resources background and law degree have allowed her to recruit and recommend strong teachers who meet the varied needs of the students in our low wealth rural district. She has overseen construction projects from a new stadium to new music room and board offices additions and is completing a new OFCC K-4 learning center. She espouses collaborative leadership and is a trusted colleague with each board member she has worked with over the years. She makes sure that each person receives recognition for their accomplishments and even in this "turbulent legislative mandates environment", she leads calmly and reassures all that "we can make it work" and they do. She sees the "big picture" in all decisions and her goal is to leave a strong, stable district as she retires. That dedication is appreciated.

**Submitted by (please print name)** ZONDA HAASE

**Signature** 

**Title** Springfield Local Schools, Board President

**Date** February 25, 2015

**Please return to BASA**  
**by February 25, 2015**

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This award will be given annually to a woman who exemplifies outstanding administrative leadership.



# Betsy M. Cowles Leadership Award

## Official Nomination Form

Deadline: February 25, 2015

Please type or print legibly

Name:

Julie Ramos

BASA Member?  Yes  No Years of continuous service 3.5

Position Superintendent

Organization Ledgemont Local School District

Address 16200 Burrows Road

City Thompson State Ohio Zip 44086

Telephone 440.298.3341 Fax 440.298.3342

Other positions held during the past five years:

Position	Organization	Dates
School Improvement Specialist	Geauga County E.S.C.	August 2009 - Present

### I. Description of significant contributions/exemplary leadership

True leadership is tested in difficult times. Mrs. Ramos has emerged as a true leader under the most difficult of times as the Ledgemont Local School District has endured tremendous financial hardship, a declining enrollment, and the risk of the district may not be able to sustain itself. With those odds stacked against her, Mrs. Ramos has lobbied the state legislature in support of legislation to allow her district to dissolve its debt and merge with a neighboring district, worked effectively with a board of education who is reluctant to execute a territory transfer that would dissolve the debt and more importantly result in more opportunities for students, and has worked successfully with other districts on a number of initiatives to improve programming for students, including a STEM school initiative and a career technical education program for middle school students. It would have been easy for Mrs. Ramos to walk away from the challenges of the Ledgemont Local Schools, but instead she embraced the challenges presented to her and she has continued to lead the district in an enthusiastic and successful manner. Mrs. Ramos is the kind of leader of which Betsy M. Cowles would have admired and been proud.

**II. Statement describing how the nominated candidate actually enhanced education through exemplary Leadership**

Mrs. Ramos initiated a 1:1 Chromebook initiative in the district this year. Every student in grades 1-12 received a Chromebook for use at school and home. In addition, as part of the Chromebook deployment the district installed more than 30 wireless access points throughout it's building for student and staff use, as well as a guest wireless network available to all visitors to the district. Ledgesmont became the first district in Geauga County to offer this opportunity to students thanks to Mrs. Ramos' innovative and creative approach to learning. The initiative was made possible when the district received bequest from a 1937 graduate of the Thompson High School (now Ledgesmont). Mrs. Ramos carefully considered how the bequest would be used and determined that the best use of the district's good fortune would be to spend the money on improving learning for students through the use of technology.

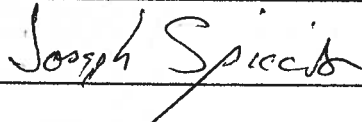
Additionally, the district has demonstrated improvement in many achievement scores in the last three years. For example: improvements have been achieved in 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading, math, and science, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade reading, 8<sup>th</sup> grade science, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade reading, math, and social studies.

As noted previously, despite a number of significant challenges, Mrs. Ramos has improved learning for students in the Ledgesmont Schools.

**Submitted by (please print name)**

Joseph Spiccia

**Signature**



**Title**

Superintendent

**Date**

January 20, 2015

**Please return to BASA**  
**by February 25, 2015**

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Fax: (614)846-4081



# Betsy M. Cowles Leadership Award

## Official Nomination Form

Deadline: February 25, 2015

Please type or print legibly

Name:

Jennifer Wilcox

BASA Member?  Yes  No Years of continuous service 20.00

Position Director of Adult Education

Organization Grant Career Center

Address 718 W. Plane Street

City Bethel State OH Zip 45106

Telephone 513-734-6222 Fax 513-734-4758

Other positions held during the past five years:

Position	Organization	Dates
Principal	Georgetown Exempted Village Schools	8-2011/8-2014
Teacher	Kettering City Schools	06-2004/8-2011

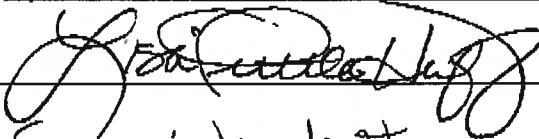
### I. Description of significant contributions/exemplary leadership:

Jennifer has taken an active role in meeting the community needs in the Clermont County area. She has done this by meeting with business owners, the Chamber of Commerce, and politicians. Additionally Jennifer ~~is~~ in the process of designing new adult education programs. Her first program, Welding, has already been approved by our accrediting agency.

**II. Statement describing how you or the nominated candidate actually enhanced education through exemplary leadership:**

Meeting with businesses and designing new programs has highlighted the school and outstanding contributions made by the school. Jennifer's diligence has brought Grant Career Center's Adult Education Department to the forefront on many human resource departments.

Submitted by (please print name) Lisa Tuttle-Huff

Signature 

Title Superintendent

Date 1-16-15

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# Betsy M. Cowles Leadership Award

Official Nomination Form

Deadline: February 25, 2015

Please type or print legibly

Name Mrs. Mary Zappitelli

BASA Member?  Yes  No Years of continuous service 12

Position Superintendent

Organization Geneva Area City School District

Address 135 South Eagle Street

City Geneva State Ohio Zip 44041

Telephone (440) 466-4831 Fax (440) 466-0908

## Other positions held during past five years:

Position	Organization	Date
<u>Superintendent</u>	<u>Geneva Area City School District</u>	<u>2008 – Present</u>
<u>Superintendent</u>	<u>Conneaut Area City School District</u>	<u>2006 – 2008</u>
<u>Assistant Superintendent</u>	<u>Conneaut Area City School District</u>	<u>2002 – 2005</u>

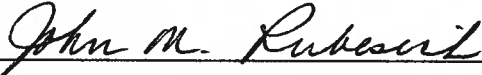
## I. Description of significant contributions/exemplary leadership:

- Member of OSLE Cohort 22
- 2013-14 BASA Executive Coach for new superintendent John Montanaro
- Chairperson for Ashtabula County Schools Council of Governments (insurance consortium)
- Currently serving as site mentor for Anthony Markijohn, graduate student in the Educational Administration program of Ashland University for his EDAD 694 Superintendent Internship
- Currently serving as site mentor for Melissa Doherty, graduate student in the College of Education, Health and Human Services School of Foundations, Leadership, and Administration of Kent State University for her superintendent internship
- Recently served as site mentor for Douglas Wetherholt, who has completed requirements for his superintendent's license through Youngtown State University
- Informally mentoring/coaching a new superintendent in a neighboring county.
- In the process of creating FACES (Female Ashtabula County Educator Support)
- Conneaut Foundation Board of Directors – Chairperson of Grant Committee
- Director of Community First Credit Union, Ashtabula, OH
- Member of Geneva Rotary, past member of the Rotary Club of Conneaut.
- LEADERSHIP Ashtabula County Class of 2003
- Conneaut Public Library Board of Trustees (1983-2006) – Served as president, led director search committee, helped pass levy for new \$1.3 million facility and oversaw construction

**II. Statement describing how you or the nominated candidate actually enhanced education through exemplary leadership:**

- Continual student achievement
  - Yearly district improvement on state report card progressed from Continuous Improvement in 2009-10 to an Excellent rating in 2012-13
  - Transformation Team Leader for Race to the Top
  - Led district through OIP process
- In the process of closing out the \$78 million in the Geneva Area City School District's building project which included five new schools
  - Assured the school system vision was met with architects and construction firms
  - Kept Board of Education and community informed of construction progress
  - Coordinated the consolidation of four K-6 elementary schools into four new facilities
    - Three new K-5 elementary schools and a new 6-8 middle school
    - Conducted a series of public meetings leading up to the redistricting of the students of the elementary schools
  - Led the closing and moving contents of five buildings
  - Led the planning of auctions for four sites.
  - Oversaw the demolition of five school buildings
  - Planned the dedication ceremonies for all new buildings
- Worked with the Geneva Board of Education in adopting and implementing NEOLA By Laws and Policies
- Worked with the Geneva Administrative Team for district-wide training and adoption of A.L.I.C.E. training which included a safety waiver day in 2013
- Successfully completed a three-day, twenty-four hour Pistol Proficiency Class in 2013 with four area superintendents which included qualification on the OPOTC Handgun Course.
- Managed all aspects of \$44 million in Conneaut Area City School District's building project, which included renovations and additions to the high school and three new schools
  - Assured the school system vision was met with architects and construction firms
  - Kept Board of Education and community informed of construction progress through verbal, written, and televised reports
  - Coordinated the consolidation of four K-5 elementary schools into two new facilities (K-2 and 3-5)
  - Led the closing and moving contents of five buildings
  - Led the planning of auctions for five sites
  - Managed the demolition of four school buildings
  - Planned the dedication ceremonies for all new buildings

**Submitted by (please print name)** John M. Rubesich

**Signature** 

**Title** Superintendent, Ashtabula County Educational Service Center

**Date** January 20, 2015

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by February 25, 2015**

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