

Dr. Joe Hendershott Wins National Award

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Dr. Joe Hendershott, executive director of Field Experiences and Internships in the Schar College of Education at Ashland University, was selected as a 2015 recipient of the Crystal Star Award of Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Intervention and Prevention by the National Dropout Prevention Center. He was one of two selected nationally for the Individual Award.

"It is an honor to be recognized by an organization like the National Dropout Prevention Network, which has shown such great dedication towards reaching our wounded youth," Hendershott said. Hendershott received his award at the General Session of the 2015 National Dropout Prevention Network Conference in San Antonio, Texas, on Oct. 26.

According to John Gailer, assistant director of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network at Clemson University, the Crystal Star Awards are designed to bring national attention to program and individuals that have made significant impact regarding the dropout issue.

Hendershott was nominated for the award and selected after his nomination packet was reviewed by a panel of judges. His selection was based on criteria that included performing his job in an exemplary manner and providing strong leadership in dropout prevention efforts.

Hendershott is becoming known as a national expert in the field of reaching "wounded" students, which are children beyond at-risk.

Hendershott, who has just written a second book titled "7 Ways to Transform the Lives of Wounded Students," recorded a special webcast presentation titled "Reaching the Wounded Student" that aired Sept. 8 in collaboration with the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network as part of its Solutions to the Dropout Crisis event.

The center's website noted that "As founder of Hope 4 The Wounded Educational Seminars, Hendershott has dedicated his career to educating those who teach or work with marginalized students, sharing methods proven to ensure academic success through the implementation of programs including esteem building and emotional development, fostering characteristics that can be dormant in wounded students."

Hendershott's new book, which is currently in production with Routledge, a member of the Taylor and Francis publishing group, will be released sometime in February and will be available at Amazon.com.

"The new book is an inspirational book that provides strategies and ideas to educators who work with wounded students—students who are beyond the point of 'at-risk' and who suffer from hopelessness," Hendershott said. "This book shows teachers and principals how to transform school culture and ultimately help to transform the lives of wounded students."

Hendershott noted that the book provides examples of real schools and students, and examines the key strategies necessary for transformation to occur within school organizations and in the lives of individual students.

Hendershott's notoriety in the field of reaching the marginalized student population has made him a sought-after professional development trainer for school districts and speaker for major educational conference venues across the United States. In 2015, he has been a keynote speaker or featured speaker for the National Dropout Prevention Network At-Risk Youth National Forum in Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Native Americans & Tribal Communities Dropout Prevention Conference in Minnesota; Maryland Center for School Safety Summer Conference in Baltimore, Md.; the 29th Annual High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference in Atlanta, Ga.; Communities in Schools 2015 Impact Conference in Raleigh, N.C.; 2015 National Dropout Prevention Network Conference in San Antonio, Texas; and the Closing the Achievement Gap Conference in Columbia, S.C.

In 2016, he will be partnering with the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network at Clemson University to offer a National Reaching the Wounded Student Conference – Trauma Informed Practices to Working with Students Beyond At-Risk in Orlando, Fla., June 26-29, which is open to educators and youth service providers from across the United States.

Hendershott has an extensive background in working with difficult and troubled youth in academic settings, and has served school systems as an assistant principal, head principal, and as principal at Boys' Village School in Smithville, Ohio. Hendershott earned his Ed.D. in Leadership Studies, and his MS in School Administration from Ashland University in Ashland, OH. He and his wife, Dardi, have nine children ranging in age from 4 to 25, and are licensed foster/adoptive parents with children adopted through U.S. foster care, Ethiopia and the special needs program in China.