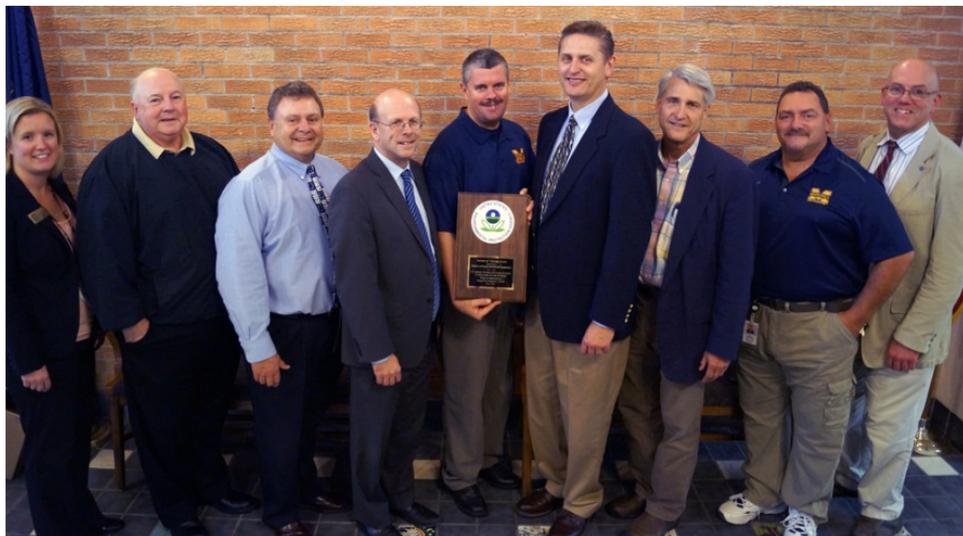




Environmental Protection Agency Honors Mooreville Schools

Mooreville Schools have been honored as a model for schools across the state and nation in providing a safe and healthy environment for students. Assistant Administrator of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Jim Jones



traveled from Washington D.C. to see the Mooreville model in action, touring Northwood Elementary School. He also presented the school with an award for serving as a national model in its indoor environmental quality programs.

The award specifically cited Mooreville's program for its "leadership in providing a safe learning environment by reducing

risks from pests and pesticides through the implementation of Integrated Pest Management in school." Jones noted that Mooreville's program ties in to a national initiative by EPA to protect children's health in schools in a cost effective way.

Jones, along with EPA Region 5 Environmental Scientist Seth Dibblee, Frank Ellis from the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs, and Dr. Marc Lame from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA), visited



Mooreville to talk with school administrators and facilities staff members.

Mooreville's Lead Facilities Technician Jeff Williams and Pest Management Expert Dan Nauert showed officials around the school cafeteria, staff break room, classrooms and storage areas to explain their efforts. Northwood and the rest of the district's schools have reduced pesticide use by 90% and at the same time have drastically reduced the number of pest sightings.

Dr. Lame and several interns from the SPEA program helped train the facilities staff as well as all of the school district staff members in ways to help prevent pest issues over the past two years. The program was developed through a partnership between the

EPA, Improving Kids Environment, and SPEA. Dr. Lane noted that Mooresville served as a great model for the program due to the variety of school settings (town, suburban, and rural) as well as the district's ability to create strong programs in older school buildings.

Northwood Principal Erin Bechtold agreed, stating, "We simply do not see pests anymore. The training our staff received has simply become part of what we do now and many of the staff members use these same techniques in their own homes."

The district is continuing to work with SPEA is refining its program. The district also takes special efforts to work with families experiencing pest issues in their homes to help prevent the spread of pests into the school environment as well as provide information and materials for those families.



PHOTOS:

TOP PAGE 1: Mooresville is presented with a plaque from the U.S. EPA for leadership in providing a safe school environment. From left: Northwood Principal Erin Bechtold, Mooresville School Safety Coordinator Rex Cook, Mooresville Asst. Superintendent Randy Taylor, Assistant Administrator of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Jim Jones, Mooresville Lead Facilities Technician Jeff Williams (holding plaque), Frank Ellis from the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs, Dr. Marc Lane from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA), Mooresville Pest Management Specialist Dan Nauert, and EPA Region 5 Environmental Scientist Seth Dibblee.

BOTTOM PAGE 1: Dan Nauert shows Jones his routine of checking pest traps

TOP PAGE 2: While touring a Northwood classroom, Lane (right) talks with (from left) Dibblee, Taylor, Jones, Nauert, Williams, Ellis and Bechtold about the school's integrated pest management program and the results the school has seen.

BOTTOM PAGE 2: Jeff William (left) talks with Nauert, Jones, and Ellis as the group tours the food storage area in the Northwood kitchen.