

Janel Horrocks-Boehmer

Hartland Middle School, Hartland, MI

Wellness and Sports

7th Grade Health Education



2005 Honorees



“When I began teaching, I was told that I had a gift for relating to teens as a storyteller, addressing real life situations with a little embellishment, dramatics and lots of

humor. I can take my students out of the classroom to the scene of an accident while teaching first aid. Or, we can perch on the rim of a pop can with the Epstein-Barr virus as we learn pathogen transmission (I play the virus). We can go to a bonfire where drugs or alcohol unexpectedly appear, offering us an opportunity to think on our feet and practice getting out of ‘sticky’ situations. Stories and illustrations bring the material taught, its importance and application, into real life for all students, including the academically challenged and at risk youth...The ‘test’ for my students not only comes at the end of the unit, but on a daily basis as they apply direct pressure to a bleeding wound, adopt a diet lower in fat and sugar, or protect themselves from acquiring sexually transmitted infections.”

“When I was hired to teach in Hartland, I agreed to take on coaching responsibilities as well. With a major in physical education and health, I felt capable to coach the five girls that ran on the boys’ track team the previous spring. That first year, 1974, I developed and taught a secondary health program and also taught team and individual sports, gymnastics and dance... In many ways, I had to sell these programs, but found my classes full and my students enthused. In the spring, I walked into my first track practice to find 86 young women signed up! Most of the girls had never before

been on a team or attempted to run, jump or throw, and some were involved in risky behaviors. Somehow through my classroom, I had connected with these teens in a way that allowed them to try something new, take a challenge.”— *Janel Horrocks-Boehmer*

“As our school’s primary Health Education teacher, Janel has to teach some very sensitive topics to her seventh grade students. She makes her students feel safe, comfortable, and capable. Mrs. H.-B.’s (as her students call her) classroom exudes an atmosphere that is positive, warm, and caring. Janel’s teaching methods ensure that students are actively engaged. She makes the topics fun and personal, often relating her own family’s experiences and allowing students to share their own stories... She has a unique gift for connecting with hard to reach students, and for making all students feel successful and valued. I have seen time and time again how students that are failing in other classes will often do very well in Health with Mrs. H.-B.”

— *Steve Livingway, principal, Hartland Middle School*



Other Highlights:

Teacher of the Week for Livingston County Daily Press & Argus (2003)

Member, Michigan Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance

Member, Hartland Education Association

Years Teaching: 30

Average Class Size: 30

Classes Taught Per Day: 5

School’s Percent of ESL Students: <1

School Type: Public, Suburban

Type of Class: Elective course