

2023 HALL OF FAME IHSSA INDUCTEE



Kirk Johnson **CENTRAL CAMPUS** **DES MOINES PUBLIC**

Coming of age on a farm near the northwest Iowa community of Sheldon, Kirk encountered an overabundance of pigs and corn, but his family also took on a steady diet of music and theatre performances thanks in part to an ambitious high school program marshalled by Jay Shelp.

Kirk went on to major in Speech Communication Education and minor in Music at Iowa State University. He spent summers on staff at the Sheldon Community High School Summer Theatre as a play director and master carpenter. His first appearance as a speech coach and classroom teacher was at Hoover High School in Des Moines during the fall of 1992. Kirk and his wife Shana bought a home and raised their children (Ashton, Pryce, and Sage) in the Beavertdale neighborhood where they still live today. He completed a Master of Arts in Speech Communication Education through the University of Northern Iowa in the spring of 2000 which allowed him to pursue adjunct work in the evenings and summers at DMACC. He was the director of debate and forensics for 11 years, and the drama assistant to Denis Hildreth for 16 years before transferring to the Central Campus Regional Career Academy in downtown Des Moines.

Kirk's past contributions to the IHSSA outside of coaching include committee work for the IE All-State Festival, the Judge Certification Committee, and he assisted with hosting IHSSA contests at all levels. He continues to serve as the guest presiding officer in the awards house at the IHSSA State Debate Tournament held each January. For several years Kirk could be found backstage at the opening and closing ceremonies of the Large Group All-State events passing along sound cues each time Craig Ihnen shot him a stern and urgent glance.

He currently serves as a Broadcasting and Film Instructor and General Manager of the student-run radio station KDPS 88.1 FM. He has performed in community theatre productions and sings regularly in the Plymouth Chancel Choir. He is eternally grateful to the IHSSA for the wealth of activities that continue to validate the lives of students and promote the values he respects and enjoys.

Mr. Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Schuller will be honored at a reception and banquet Friday evening of the Coaches Convention.



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B.J. Schuller **SIBLEY-OCHEYEDAN**



B.J. was born and raised in West Bend (*home of the Grotto*), where he graduated in 1982. While at West Bend, he was first exposed to speech and theater as a freshman in 1978 by a first-year speech and English teacher fresh out of Wartburg College. Following high school graduation, he attended Northwestern College in Orange City for two years on a football scholarship as a Speech/Theater major. A combination that raised eyebrows on both sides of the fence. He played a role in "A Christmas Carol" while there, and was a player on the 1983 national championship football team. 1982 was also the year he became certified as an IHSSA judge. Following his sophomore year he transferred to the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, South Dakota where he taught public speaking and received his BS in secondary education.

B.J. began his professional career as a full-time residence hall director at USD and at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona where he was named the 1989 Hall Director of the Year. In 1990, he moved the family to Mobridge, South Dakota where he began his high school teaching career. While in Mobridge, he directed several plays and took the speech program from two participants to 55 by the fourth year and was named "Teacher of the Year". He also worked with the SD Executive Director to introduce Reader's Theatre to the state's competitions. The next move was to Manson, Iowa where he was shared between Manson-Northwest Webster and Rockwell City-Lytton high schools. Once again, he took two moderate programs and built their ranks tenfold. In 2001, the family then moved to Sibley. He is currently in his 22nd year at Sibley-Ocheyedan High School and has been teaching for 33 years.

B.J. has stayed active with the IHSSA throughout the years by serving as a District Officer and also on the Judge Certification Committee as well as the Convention Committee. While he never thought to keep an actual count, he has hosted district and state-level contests multiple times for the students of the IHSSA.

B.J. is very grateful to be able to accept and share this honor with all of you and especially members of his family: Jim (dad); Jeff (brother); Janelle (sister); Julie (his wonderful wife); daughters Brittany and her significant other, Mitch, and Catherine and her husband Colton. And, of course, his two grandchildren, Landon and Adeline.

Finally, he wants to note that the first-year Wartburg teacher that gave him the speech and theater bug was none other than 2011 HOF alum, Mr. Craig Ihnen.



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Julie Schuller SIBLEY-OCHEYEDAN

Julie Schuller was born and raised in LeMars, IA. In 1983, she graduated from LeMars Community High School. During her sophomore year, Julie was introduced to speech and theatre. This was not her first choice. She wanted to be an athlete, but was told that she was not cut out to be an athlete, which left her to explore a new path.

Julie is grateful for her life's journey, being an adventurer, and her family. A self-proclaimed "in-betweener", Julie belonged to various types of friend groups (theater nerds, band/choir geeks, jocks, and partiers) growing up and still today. This diversity has helped her navigate many life situations, especially as an educator.

Julie has attended Northwest Missouri State, University of South Dakota, Northern Arizona University, Western Iowa Tech Community College (Bookkeeping Certificate), Associated Schools of Miami, Inc. (Certified Travel Agent), Iowa Central Community College (AA), Buena Vista University (BA), and National University, San Diego, CA (MA). Taking classes at such an array of institutions has suited her well in gaining and gathering knowledge about our diverse world. Becoming a teacher at 40, after several unique jobs, Julie now teaches 5th/6th grade social studies at Sibley-Ocheyedan.

Julie's greatest accomplishments are being a wife (B.J.), mother (Brittany and Catherine), mother-in-law (Mitch and Colton) grandmother (Landon and Adeline), sister (Jamie/Bill, Joni/Fritz, Jackie/Larry), creating the Camp Schuller environment (classroom and grandparent camp), being the sponsor of the 5th/6th grade Leadership Team, obtaining her Education Masters in Social-Emotional Learning, Past-President of the Iowa Reading Association, an IHSSA Judge since 1984, Sibley Rec Drama Department Coach for four years, Speech Coach, Speech Contest Host for numerous years, costume designer for 40 years, and speech/drama supporter for 40 years.

Julie would like to thank her IHSSA family for this outstanding honor. She has met lifelong friends, talented individuals, and people cut from the same cloth. Julie's theatre journey with her life-partner (B.J.) has been a blessing each and every day. She is beyond elated to be honored and grateful to be part of this caring, compassionate, dramatic, and loving group of (family) people.

