

May 16, 2017

Dear Lincoln Scottish Rite,

Thank you.

My career has been long enough to call it a journey. As a young woman of 24 I returned to my hometown and started teaching at Clinton Elementary. My journey continued on to Humann Elementary, Meadow Lane Elementary and Lefler Middle School. Along the way I learned countless lessons from students, parents, teachers, and administrators and am poised to learn many more. Receiving the Scottish Rite Award on Friday was the greatest honor of my life. Having a full auditorium of dignitaries, my Lefler family, parents, husband, son, and brother to share the moment is a memory I treasure already.

Here's what I want you to know.... As a new Lincoln Public Schools teacher, I knew of the Scottish Rite Award. The portraits of past winners graced the entrance to the district office and many times I studied them when I visited the building. Early in my career I did not know any of them personally, but as my journey continued I knew many of the recipients. I knew of their hard work, service and passion. I knew it was unlikely the award would come to me, but that didn't keep me from wanting to be a part of the tradition of excellence the Scottish Rite Award represents.

Here's something else I want you to know... I appreciate the long standing support Lincoln Public Schools teachers have received from your organization. I see the Scottish Rite as our Academy Award. Your recognition and generous gift validate the hard work of educators and provide inspiration as well. Thank you for standing behind Lincoln Public Schools teachers.

Once again, thank you. I'm honored and humbled to be a Scottish Rite award recipient. For me, it's a bit of a dream come true and a highlight of my career.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan McKeown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Jan McKeown
2017 Scottish Rite Recipient
Instructional Coach
Lefler Middle School