

I Touched the Future

We would like to nominate Bob Kern for this prestigious "I Touched the Future" Award. Bob Kern, all five foot six of him, walked into Nazareth Area Middle School, 11 years ago, during a time when it was placed on School Improvement and the morality of the faculty was at its all-time low. On top of the already huge challenges he had to tackle, he was the point person for the new middle school that was under construction. He definitely had his work cut out for him.

He knew no one, accepted the challenges, and became our fearless leader.

Great leadership is the key to a successful school. Bob Kern was multifaceted. He dealt with teachers, parents, students, and Administrators with compassion. His level of dedication and motivation was contagious. He shared his vision; he lead by example; he was a problem solver; he was an exceptional listener; he was generous; he adapted; and he coached! He recognized all the strengths as well as the weaknesses. He encouraged faculty and students to grow and to continuously improve. In no time at all, Nazareth Area Middle School became a family, with Bob Kern as our patriarch.

Bob Kern promoted the FISH Philosophy (Play, Be There, Make Their Day, and Choose Your Attitude). These qualities were present every day with Bob - this was his own philosophy of life.

He faced life with positivity, no matter what the day presented. He was focused and made this school the place to be! He brought enthusiasm and energy to every classroom, office, meeting and assembly. All of these qualities are characteristics that he instilled in his student body and staff.

Bob Kern created a winning team! Every person had a role on the team. He built a solid foundation that was strong and that would uphold any storm. He took the school from being on the State's School Improvement list to one that earned a National Blue Ribbon, the most prestigious school award nationally known. It takes a leader with talent to drive a faculty and student body to such notable achievements.

During Bob's years at Nazareth Area Middle School, he earned the Middle School National Blue Ribbon School award, the Terrell H. Bell National Principal of the Year Award, the Edmentum Principal of the Year Award, and many other awards and honors of achievement, both educationally and as a PIAA wrestling official.

It has been our extreme pleasure to work under Bob Kern. He has taught us educational, professional, and personal life lessons that will be with us forever. We could not be prouder of this man!

Respectfully,

Jodi, Shannon, Susanna, Michelle, and Laurie