



LAKEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS HALL OF FAME *Proclamation*

WHEREAS The Lakewood Public Schools Hall of Fame is a tribute to men and women who have made exceptional contributions to society, achieved extraordinary success, exhibited good character and action, bringing honor and prestige to Lakewood High School. Hall of Fame inductees are recognized as outstanding role models for our students and have reached above and beyond the ordinary.

WHEREAS Mr. Denny Ackerson, is formally inducted into the Lakewood Public Schools Hall of Fame on April 24, 2024 by the nominating committee, for excellence and dedication to the Lakewood school community.

WHEREAS Mr. Ackerson is a pillar of the Lakewood community. Since 1983, Denny Ackerson has demonstrated all of the hallmarks for teaching and learning. Mr. Ackerson graduated from Ferris State University with a degree in automotive, upon earning his degree he opened Denny's Repair Shop in Lake Odessa. He served as a part-time automotive teacher in Lakewood where his passion for making a difference in the lives of kids became clear. Denny was a teacher at Lakewood High School from 1983-2020, leaving an indelible mark on our institution. Post-retirement, he returned contractually in 2021 and 2022, sharing his expertise and passion with a new generation of students, displaying his enduring commitment to the Lakewood community. When the Department of Education modified the requirements to teach automotive technology and building trades, Denny enrolled in college classes to be qualified to teach under the new requirements so the district could continue to offer programs for students. During his tenure, Mr. Ackerson taught Automotive Technology, Wood Shop, Electronics, Construction Tech, Academic Center, and Drivers Training. An exceptional aspect of his commitment to community engagement, Mr. Ackerson and his students tirelessly worked on repairing community cars as an affordable alternative, embodying the spirit of service and unity. Denny is a highly respected, trusted member of the community. From 2000 to 2009, Mr. Ackerson served as the FFA Advisor, nurturing growth of the agriculture education club. Under his guidance, students thrived, and the club became a hub of inspiration, setting the stage for leaders. Denny's legacy extends beyond the classroom, he coached football at Lakewood High School and Little League Baseball and Softball for many years, instilling values of teamwork and discipline in young athletes. Mr. Ackerson had the distinct ability to reach a specific demographic of students that often struggled academically. Through his care and unique talents, Mr. Ackerson motivated students to excel and believe in themselves as much as he believed in them and their abilities. Mr. Ackerson earned a well-deserved honor when the Lakewood Student Council presented him with the Teacher of the Year award, demonstrating his connection and impact on the lives of students. Denny is a consummate educator, a selfless teacher, and a champion of all students to find their passion and be successful.

WHEREAS Mr. Ackerson is an outstanding role model for students, and his proud family. Mr. Ackerson has two daughters and a son, all Lakewood alumni. He and his wife Doreen married in 2010, expanding his family with three additional children, also Viking alumni.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Stephen Williams, Lakewood High School Principal, do hereby proclaim that Mr. Denny Ackerson be inducted in the Lakewood Public Schools Hall of Fame.

Given under my hand and seal of office this 24th day of April, 2024.

Jodi Duits, Superintendent of Schools

Stephen Williams, Principal, Lakewood High School