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Congratulations 2023 Distinguished Alumni!

Each year to commemorate Homecoming, we recognize outstanding alumni who have displayed extraordinary gifts of leadership, achieved recognition for their professional expertise, attained success in their field of endeavor, and provided service to their community and/or MSD of Lawrence Township (MSDLT) Schools. A committee representing the MSDLT and the Lawrence Township School Foundation reviewed the nominations and submitted to the superintendent recommendations for selection. Those selected were then confirmed by the Board of Education.

Congratulations to this year's Distinguished Alumni: **Franklyn Bush**, LN 1996, **Mark Canada**, LN 1985, and **Dexter Thompson**, LC 1995!



*Mr. Franklyn Bush
Lawrence North Class of 1996*

Mr. Franklyn Bush is a 1996 Lawrence North High School graduate. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration & Management from Indiana Institute of Technology. In 2005, he completed a Transition to Teaching program in Special Education K-12 at Butler University, later completing his Master's Degree program (EPPSP) at Butler in Educational Administration.

Mr. Bush has served his community in many capacities in the field of education. Mr. Bush was a highly successful Exceptional Learner teacher before being named the Assistant Principal at Fall Creek Valley Middle School. Mr. Bush was promoted to serve as the Freshman School Principal at Lawrence North in 2014. In 2017, Mr. Bush was named the Principal at Lawrence Central where he

currently serves. He provides leadership to faculty, staff, students, and families.

Mr. Bush has implemented proactive academic and behavioral systems guided by supports and structures that enhance student learning, achievement and opportunities, all while effectively communicating with stakeholders. This past May, he was named the MSD of Lawrence Township Susan Jordan Administrator of the Year.

Mr. Bush is the proud father to LC senior, Ally, eighth grade Belzer students, Bryce and Trevor, and husband to LN graduate Amy.



Mr. Franklyn Bush receiving his 2023 Distinguished Alumni award on September 29, 2023.

Dr. Mark Canada is a 1985 graduate of Lawrence North High School. He graduated from IU Bloomington 1989 with a BA in English and Journalism. Then he earned a Masters Degree in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1994 and his PhD in American Literature before 1990 and English Language in 1997. Currently, Dr. Canada serves as the Chancellor at IU Kokomo. He is an award-winning leader, professor, author, and speaker with expertise in student success, American literature, the English language, journalism, and information literacy.

As a professor of English, Dr. Canada has taught numerous courses in American literature and other subjects, earning the University of North Carolina Board of Governors' Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2008.

His seven books include the Audible Originals Ben Franklin's Lessons in Life and Edgar Allan Poe: Master of Horror, as well as Thomas Wolfe Remembered, Information Literacy for Students, and Literature and Journalism in Antebellum America. His numerous articles on literature, student success, and other subjects have appeared in The Chronicle of Higher Education, American Literary Realism, Journalism History, The Conversation, Southern Cultures, The Academic Minute, and other venues.

Dr. Canada is a past president of the Thomas Wolfe Society, a contributing editor of The Thomas Wolfe Review, a graduate of AALI's Executive Leadership Academy and Harvard's MLE institute, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He serves on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity of the Kokomo Community and belongs to a local chapter of Rotary International.

Dr. Canada is the proud father to Esprit, son Will, and husband to wife Lisa.



*Dr. Mark Canada
Lawrence North Class of 1985*



Dr. Mark Canada receiving his 2023 Distinguished Alumni award on September 29, 2023.



*Mr. Dexter Thompson
Lawrence Central Class of 1995*

Mr. Dexter Thompson is a 1995 graduate of Lawrence Central High School and a 1999 graduate of Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering. After graduation, Mr. Thompson worked for Dow Chemical Company in Michigan and Eli Lilly in Chicago before returning to Indianapolis in 2004.

Upon returning to Indianapolis, Mr. Thompson worked for 13 years at a family-owned business, Thompson Distribution Company, as Manager of Sales and Operations from 2004 to 2016. In 2016, Mr. Thompson purchased Vertical Home Health and Vertical Home Care, a home health/home care business located in Bedford, Indiana. In 2018, Mr. Thompson grew and expanded the Vertical Brand from Bedford to Lawrence Township in Indianapolis and has over 200 employees.

Vertical has been acknowledged for being “The Best Home Care” and “Best Home Health” company in Lawrence and Marion counties for 2021, 2022, and 2023. One goal of the Vertical Brand is growth throughout the state of Indiana to help more senior citizens age in their homes. Mr. Thompson’s belief is that the valuable work Vertical does, makes a difference in the lives of the individuals it serves. He recognizes that the ability to help someone be independent and function in the comfort of their home is vital to their longevity and quality of life.

Mr. Thompson has received The Best and Brightest Award from Junior Achievement, Up & Coming Award from the Center for Leadership Development, serves on the Board of Directors for the Purdue University Lawrence County Extension, he is Vice President of his neighborhood HOA, an annual participant in the Spartan Race Trifecta, an avid philanthropist, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and a member of Eastern Star Church.

Mr. Thompson is the proud parent of two sons, LN graduate Dylan and LN junior Devin.



Mr. Dexter Thompson receiving his 2023 Distinguished Alumni award on September 22, 2023.

Keeping Up With LT Alumni



Amy Pauszek (LC Class of 1984) is the inaugural recipient of this year's Spirit of Heartland Film Award for her feature length documentary film [ART & SOUL](#), a journey into the mind and spirit of Nancy Noël. This award honors a person who demonstrates enthusiasm and dedication to working with or promoting Heartland Film.

The Heartland Film staff shares, "Amy embodies the gratitude and values outlined in the criteria for this special award. Her continuous support and promotion of Heartland Film is appreciated by all." Congrats, Amy!



Ephraim Owens (LC Class of 2006) competed on Season 24 of The Voice! During night two of the Blind Auditions shown September 26 on NBC, Ephraim sang Labrinth's "Beneath Your Beautiful." All four coaches (Gwen Stefani, Niall Horan, John Legend, and Reba McEntire) pressed the button to turn their chairs around, eager to have Ephraim join their teams.

Ephraim ultimately chose John Legend as his coach, who said of the Indianapolis native, "You were singing like your life depended on it. Not only did you give us that feeling, but you were executing the song with great skill." Congrats, Ephraim!



Have news you'd like to share? The Lawrence Township School Foundation wants to know what is happening with you! Email [Natalie Thomison](mailto:Natalie.Thomison@ltsf.org), LTSF Marketing and Development Specialist, with your update for a chance to be featured in our Alumni eNewsletter or on our social media!

STAY IN TOUCH



Register your reunion with LTSF by [emailing](#) or calling our office at 317-423-8303.

We can help:

- Connect you with fellow alumni using our extensive database
- Arrange guided group tours of your alma mater
- Promote your reunion and/or event via website, email, and social media
- And more!



Tell us about your upcoming event by clicking the button below.

EVENT QUESTIONNAIRE

STAY UP TO DATE!

Be sure to visit the [Alumni Reunion & Events](#) page of our website to see upcoming Lawrence Central and Lawrence North reunions as they are added.

MORE WAYS TO GIVE



Every time you shop at Kroger, you can help LT students. Register your KROGER PLUS CARD [online](#) and enter the NPO number WE867. When you shop, swipe your card, or enter the phone number associated with your card, and a percentage of your purchases will be donated to LTSF.



When you make a donation to LTSF, you are EMPOWERING MSD of Lawrence Township students! Click [here](#) to learn more about how LTSF supports kids.

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