

Educator Recipients



Karen Hoppes

For 31 years, **Dr. Karen Hoppes** has been teaching AP United States History at Lakeridge High School. The class is a two-year dual enrollment course with Portland State University, where students can gain valuable college credit for the university-level projects, discussions, and research-papers they complete.

Each year, students are required to complete a twenty-page research paper about a United States history topic of their choice. This is quality, professional work done by each student, attaining university-level grades and recognition. At the end of the year, these papers are submitted to the Portland State University Young Historians Conference. Each year several Lakeridge High School students have had their papers selected as finalists and they've become published authors.

Last June, at the end of the 2020 school year, the Juniors in AP U.S. History were aware of Dr. Hoppes's impending retirement but were assured that the class would continue into their senior year, with the same opportunity of obtaining college credit. When the new school year began in September, the teacher who was to take over the class encountered difficulty and left the faculty. When Dr. Hoppes became aware of this, she postponed her retirement to finish off this last year of AP U.S. History for the Class of 2021 seniors. In doing so, she fulfilled their PSU credit and completed their US History course.

In her acceptance of this award, Dr. Hoppes said, "I learned early in my career that if you want to teach someone anything, you have to first truly care about them a great deal. Caring leads to building community, through humor, through sincerity, through personal concern for students. Educational excellence is found in classroom communities where everyone in the room puts service above self."