

March 12, 2021

### **Princeton Community Middle School Instructor Earns Compassion Award**

Gary Schuster, a satellite instructor at Princeton Community Middle School for the Great Oaks Career Campuses, was honored by the Great Oaks Education Foundation with the 2020 Eric Scott Compassion Award.

Schuster has been an instructor in the Project Lead The Way program offered to students at PCMS since 2016-2017. Currently, 1,004 students are enrolled in the program or have completed it.

“We are so proud to have Mr. Schuster as part of our PCMS family,” said Dr. David Mackzum, Princeton Community Middle School Principal. “He is very deserving of the compassion award - he consistently goes above and beyond for the students in his program and has a deep respect for his peers as well.” Dr. Mackzum added “Mr. Shuster can consistently be seen at after-school activities supporting students outside the classroom. He is also committed as a girls softball coach at PCMS.”

The Great Oaks Board of Directors and Foundation said Schuster was nominated for the award by Miranda Spivey, a fellow instructor. Spivey cited Schuster’s work with his students, the Great Oaks Equity Council, and a professional development program called One Degree Shift in her nomination.

“He cares about ALL students, making many modifications to assignments and fighting for them to get supplies they deserve to receive,” Spivey wrote in her nomination letter. “He has proven to care about ALL staff, especially the underdog.”

Great Oaks Career Campuses says the award is named in memory of Eric Scott, a long-time Great Oaks Career Campuses associate who passed away in March 2017. Scott was a founding member of the District Equity Council, a group dedicated to promoting respect, equity, and success at each of the Great Oaks campuses. He served on the leadership of the Equity Council for nearly ten years.

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### **About Princeton City Schools**

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