



2022 IPTA Award Recipients



IPTA Members Received Awards at the 58th Annual IPTA Transportation Conference and Trade Show.



Tom Horn "Memorial" Award Recipient: **Kim Ensminger**, Central Lee Community School District.
Pictured with IPTA Board President, Carlos Guerra.

(Lt-Rt) Betty Golay, Nancy Horn,
Kim Ensminger, and Max Christensen



Holly Hoglund Klein, Iowa Woman in Transportation Award Recipient: **Julie Nemmers** - Spencer Community School District
Pictured (Lt) IPTA Board President, Carlos Guerra, Julie Nemmers. Pictured (Middle) Tom Klein, Hoglund Bus Company and Julie Nemmers
Pictured (Rt) Julie Nemmers and IPTA Executive Director, Chris Darling



Longevity Award Recipients:

Pictured (Lt) **Kim Bleckwehl**, Odebolt, Arthur, and Battle Creek-Ida Grove CSD (33 Years) with IPTA Board Member, Robin Pickard.
Pictured (Middle) **Fred Schaffer**, Central CSD (39 Years), Jeff Harbaugh, Transportation Director, **Leighton (Ed) Nelson**, Central CSD (52 Years)
Pictured (Rt) **Richard (Dick) Kluiter**, Waverly-Shell Rock CSD (53 Years) with IPTA Board Member, David Johnson

The Awards Luncheon is sponsored by the Auto-Jet School Bus Parts Company. Congratulations to all of these very dedicated individuals for everything that they have done over the years in the service of the students in their communities.





2022 IPTA Heroism Award Recipients



The IPTA Heroism Recipients: **Bonnie Lore**, School Bus Driver, **Isaac Oetken**, 9th grade, **Izak Houck**, 7th grade, and **Martin (Marty) Ashley** 5th grade, were all from the Charles City Community School District.

On Nov. 1, 2021, on a typical Monday afternoon a Charles City CSD bus headed out on a normal school bus route. At about 3:50 p.m. the transportation office received a call saying that they had a school bus that had rolled over in the ditch. Sam Gaston, tried calling Bonnie the driver but she received no response.

Within a few minutes Bonnie called back. Sam asked her if everyone was ok, she said we are all out. Sam told her that all of them were on their way and another bus was already dispatched to her location.

Bonnie had just stopped and let Isaac Oetken off. Within 75ft of where she stopped, she got too close to the edge of the gravel road and it sucked her in and the bus just flipped over on its side.

A Colwell Volunteer Fire Man lived a mile from the scene, he said, ***"When he topped the hill the kids were all sitting in the field. He said he was so impressed with everyone."*** Bonnie has prepared her riders by practicing evacuation drills and everything on this day went as practiced. As we investigated the accident, we kept hearing of three young men that put the other kids first before themselves. (*Isaac Oetken, Martin Ashley, and Izak Houck.*) When they reviewed the cameras, you could clearly see these three young men helping everyone off the bus to safety.



Isaac Oetken, 9th grader, is the young man that Bonnie had dropped off at his home. He remembers starting to walk up his drive way and hearing a loud thud and looked over and saw the bus flipped in the ditch. He started running over to it and calling 911 at the same time, but he was running so fast that dispatch could not hear him so he slowed down to talk. Isaac knew where he lived that the 911 dispatch rang into Chickasaw County, not Floyd County, so he had to tell them the accident occurred in Floyd County. All he could think of was half the kids on that bus were family. Isaac started helping the kids get out the back door and Bonnie was the last one they got out. When asked what the definition of a hero is, he said ***"Someone who is willing to do good and help others."*** He doesn't feel he is a hero, but feels good about himself for helping this day and that everyone was ok. In our eyes he is a hero and he defiantly went above and beyond to help others.

Izak Houck, 7th grader, in the video they could see him grab his hat turn around and started calming kids down telling them everything is going to be ok, and we need to get out the back door. He was so calm himself it was amazing to see. He checked on his friend and got him calmed down, then he started helping everyone out of their seats to the back door. He said, ***"I wasn't scared, I just wanted to make sure everyone was ok."*** He doesn't feel like a hero, he said, ***"It was something that was expected, to help people out, and it was the right thing to do!"*** In our eyes he is also a hero, and he went above and beyond to help others.

Martin (Marty) Ashley, 5th grader, is another one that grabbed his hat. He said, ***"I have had this hat for three years and we have been through a lot together, and it's comfortable."*** Then started to help everyone get out the back door when he heard Bonnie ask him for help. Marty went up and helped Bonnie. Bonnie was hanging in her seat from her seat belt. Bonnie asked Marty to push the button to release it. (She did have a seat belt cutter) but they thought this was the best way. They both just looked at each other knowing what was going to happen. Bonnie braced herself but she fell from her seat to the door. Marty immediately asked if she was ok, and helped her stand up. Once everything was ok, Marty helped her out the back door. For his age Marty is a hero and someone who helps a lot.



**IPTA 2022 Heroism Award Recipients (Lt -Rt):
Martin (Marty) Ashley, Izak Houck, Isaac Oetken, Bonnie Lore,
with IPTA Board Member Julie Nemmers**



How do you measure the true meaning of heroism? It can be defined in several ways. 1. Heroic conduct especially as exhibited in fulfilling a high purpose or attaining a noble end. 2. Acting voluntarily for the service of others who are in need, whether it is for an individual, a group, or a community. 3. Performing actions without any expectation of reward or external gain. 4. Recognition and acceptance of the potential risk, or sacrifice made, by taking heroic actions. How ever you define it, the over 200 in attendance understood the potential risk and sacrifice made by these individuals, and gave them a standing ovation in appreciation for their true heroic actions.

Heroism consists of putting others first, even at your own peril, and the IPTA was honored to present Heroism Awards to these four worthy individuals.