

RNeSU Superintendent, UVM scientists to receive 2020 James Stackpole Award

By LEE J. KAHRIS

BURLINGTON — The Vermont State School Nurses' Association (VSSNA) has announced that Jeanne Collins, superintendent of the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union, is one of three recipients of this year's J. Ward Stackpole MD Recognition Award.

The award goes to an individual who has made significant and sustained contributions to school health and the academic success of students in Vermont, according to the VSSNA. The recipients are described as "friends of school



JEANNE COLLINS

nurses - who are not school nurses themselves - in supporting the important role school nurses play in helping children stay or become healthy."

The award was created in 2000 to commemorate the achievements of J. Ward Stackpole, MD, one of Vermont's champions of school health services. Dr. Stackpole served 34 years as Chair of the Vermont Medical Society's School Health Committee. Dr. Stackpole recognized that "School nurses do the work on

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the ground, every day, in the schools to keep kids healthy."

In addition to Collins, UVM Pediatric Infectious Disease specialists Benjamin Lee, MD, and William Raszka Jr., MD, were also recipients of this year's Stackpole Award. This is the first time in the history of the award that three individuals are being recognized for their incredible support to Vermont's School Nurses.

"I am thrilled and honored to receive this recognition," Collins said. "I have had the pleasure of serving with Drs. Lee and Raczky on the state guidance task force and hold them each in high esteem. I am thoroughly also in awe of the work school nurses have done during the pandemic as well as during 'normal' times. It is so delightful to work as part of a team who has worked so hard to keep our students and families safe and healthy."

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RNeSU Superintendent*

Collins was recognized for her support of Vermont school nurses and her efforts to educate not only school nurses, but the

school community members, as well. Lee and Raszka Jr. were recognized for the information they regularly shared, their medical expertise, and the developing COVID-19 knowledge as it related to the health of Vermont's school children.

"Since Spring 2020, Jeanne Collins, Dr. Lee, and Dr. Raszka provided invaluable information, expertise, and support to the school nurses and their critical role in the planning and tackling of the real-time challenges of this pandemic," said Soph Hall, President of the VSSNA. "Our fearless and dedicated school nurses utilized the logistical and disease-specific information that this year's recipients graciously offered to keep the school community healthy and engaged in in-person learning and teaching."

The VSSNA will be honoring this year's recipients with its first-ever "Virtual Award Ceremony" on Thursday, March 25.