



Awarded the
INSPIRA Award
of Excellence

Shannon Hughes

Hughes, Placek Named National Merit Finalists



Donald Placek



Congratulations to Lake Zurich High School Seniors **Shannon Hughes** and **Donald Placek** who have been named as finalists in the 54th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. After meeting all of the requirements to advance to Finalist status, both students will now be considered for some of the 8,200 National Merit Scholarships totaling more than \$35 million to be offered in 2009.

To be considered for finalist status, the duo had to fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. Approximately half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the title of Merit Scholar.

History Lives at Sara Adams Living Museum



The Second grade students in **Carron Hanley's** class at Sarah Adams School are learning about heroes during their Social Studies time. The students are writing a paper and making a poster highlighting the special contributions their hero has made throughout his or her life.

The students will then actually have the chance to become their hero on February 18. If you would like to meet **Tiger Woods, Sacagawea, Neil Armstrong** or **Oprah Winfrey**, then call the school for the museum's show times and visit Sarah Adams School on Feb. 18 and watch history come alive.

Clemens Teaching Brain Incorporated Learning at National Louis University



Jerry Clemens

Jerry Clemens, a seventh grade science teacher at Middle School North, will be teaching a self-designed course entitled *Brain Incorporated Teaching* at National Louis University (NLU). His interest in the brain began in childhood, and since has been an active researcher onto how the brain learns. He has attended training with Eric

Jensen as well as brain based teaching conferences. Jerry has shared his findings in staff development sessions at Middle School North and Middle School South as well as sharing information at Parent University on February 28.

A Science Methods adjunct for National Louis University, Jerry presented to the board at National Louis a university course outline entitled "Brain Incorporated Teaching." Stating that Harvard University now offers a Master's Degree entitled: "Mind, Brain and Education" Jerry convinced the

board at NLU to approve his course. Brain Incorporated Teaching will be offered in Spring 2009 at their Wheeling Campus beginning April 11.

Brain Incorporated Learning is learning in accordance with the way that the brain was naturally designed to learn. In this very active course, Clemens explores a brain incorporated approach in teaching that encourages educators to consider the way the brain works when making educational decisions. By using what is known about how the brain learns they can reach more learners with greater success.

The course provides a confident understanding of brain parts and function, neuro-genesis, neuro-plasticity, neuro-transmitters and modulators along with a wide variety of classroom teaching applications that can be used immediately. Participants will learn how to manage sensitive brain based bio-chemicals that can determine how students are engaged in classroom instruction. Participants will also discover how teachers can transfer