

Grand Forks Central 2016 Distinguished Alumni Inductees

News Release

For Immediate Release

September 19, 2016

Fourth Class of Grand Forks Central Distinguished Alumni Selected

GRAND FORKS, N.D. – Grand Forks Central High School has selected two alumni to join its group of Distinguished Alumni. Dr. Phyllis Johnson, and Chris Vein will be formally inducted during a school assembly on September 23 at 2 p.m. The inductees will also be honored during halftime of the Grand Forks Central football game at 7 p.m. that same day.

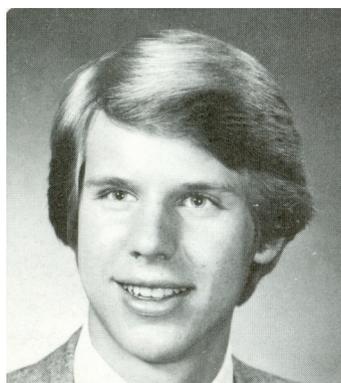
The Distinguished Alumni designation honors graduates of Grand Forks Central who have made a significant impact on their communities and professions and serve as models of success to current Grand Forks Central students.

The 2016 Distinguished Alumni are the fourth class to be inducted among the 130 years of Central graduating classes. Portraits and biographies of the two inductees will hang in the hallways of Grand Forks Central, joining past inductees Dr. Tom Amberry, Ronald Davies, Lucy Dahglisch, Hal Gershman, Jeffrey Holmes, Peter Lindgren, Paul Markovich, Stuart McDonald, Dr. Casey Ryan, Wes Rydell, Jill (Simmons) Techel, and Dr. Kathryn Uhrich.



Dr. Phyllis (Lanes) Johnson, a 1967 Grand Forks Central graduate, served as director of the United States Department of Agriculture's Beltsville Area (Washington D.C.) Agricultural Research Service from 1996 to 2008. For her work at Beltsville, the USDA's largest and most comprehensive research facility, in 1999, she received the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive during President Bill Clinton's administration, an award given to the top five percent of senior executives across the Federal Government.

A 1967 Presidential School and a 1998 Sioux Award recipient, Johnson holds Bachelor's and PhD degrees from the University of North Dakota, where she was acting vice president of Economic Development from 2009 to until her retirement in 2014. She is currently a visiting professor at Concordia College Moorhead, Minnesota, where she teaches nutrition, biochemistry, public administration and the science of global hunger.



Chris Vein, a 1979 Grand Forks Central graduate, is the founder and chief executive officer of Dome Advisory Services, Sonoma, California, a company designed to help organizations “maximize their potential”. Through his work with Dome, Vein serves as an advisor to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, where he works to increase innovation in Australia's foreign policy, trade, and aid programs. He is also the founding chair of the Knowledge Economy Institute, Australia's leader in the use of digital technology as a means of solving development challenges.

Vein's work has spanned all levels of government, from the city and county of San Francisco to the White House's Office of Science and Technology, as well as at the World Bank where he has worked to make government more open, lean, and entrepreneurial.