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# 2014 Teachers Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

**Sharon Gates, Harold Rebenitsch and Nancy Zimney**  
*Posthumously*  
**Al Gratz and Dr. Elton Skarperud**

Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Red River High School Theater  
Grand Forks, North Dakota

12:30 PM **Music by Red River High School Quartet**

1:00 PM **Welcome and opening remarks**  
Mr. John Warcup  
*Grand Forks Foundation for Education*

**Procession of Honorees**

**Introduction of 2014 Inductees**  
Mr. Dick Soule  
*Alumni Network Advisory Committee*  
Ms. Emilia Hodgson  
*Grand Forks Foundation for Education*

**Presentation of 2014 Inductees**  
Mr. Tom Young  
*Grand Forks Education Association*

1:45 PM **Closing remarks and Honoree recessional**

2:00 PM **Reception in the Commons**



**Sharon Gates, Teacher at Ben Franklin and Lincoln, and Lake Agassiz Elementary Principal from 1965-2002.**

Sharon Gates was known as an innovator who worked tirelessly for her students. She helped to implement several district wide programs, including the Resident Teacher Program (a program that partners with the College of Education and Human Development at UND) and ENCORE (a

before and after school program for students). As one of her former teachers wrote, "It was an incredible honor to have worked with such a dedicated educator who truly felt that the children came first." Congratulations to Mrs. Gates as she is inducted into the Grand Forks Public Schools 2014 Teachers Hall of Fame.



**Harold Rebenitsch, Chemistry Teacher at Red River High School from 1968-1999.**

Harold Rebenitsch left a lasting mark on the chemistry curriculum by implementing qualitative analysis in chemistry classrooms. This allowed students to take charge of their learning, spending weeks running diagnostic tests to identify unknown samples. His colleague wrote, "Students were treated as if they were capable of critical thinking and

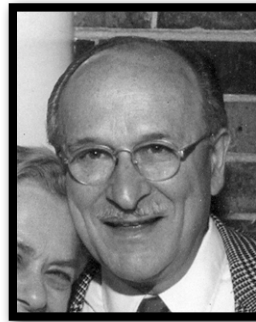
they rose to the occasion...their pride in their accomplishments was palpable." Congratulations to Mr. Rebenitsch as he is inducted into the Grand Forks Public Schools 2014 Teachers Hall of Fame.



**Nancy Zimney, Adult Learning Center at South Middle School and Central High School Math Teacher from 1977-2007.**

Nancy Zimney was known as a tireless worker, who was completely dedicated to her students. "She didn't work by the clock. She spent many weekend hours honing her class presentations and processing student paperwork," her colleague said. One of her former students noted, "She was so patient

with all of her students. She expected the best from us but was always willing to help students individually to achieve their best." Congratulations to Mrs. Zimney as she is inducted into the Grand Forks Public Schools 2014 Teachers Hall of Fame.



**Al Gratz, Central High School Music Teacher from 1968-1989.**

Al Gratz spent countless classroom and rehearsal hours fostering his students' love of music. A former student wrote, "His passion for music was infectious, as he took great joy and pride in teaching music to young students." Another student wrote, "He provided the serious music students

inspiration to aspire to the top! He inspired not so serious students to be a part of the group to enjoy music and friendship."

Congratulations to Mr. Gratz as he is posthumously inducted into the Grand Forks Public Schools 2014 Teachers Hall of Fame.



**Dr. Elton Skarperud, Teacher and Principal at Winship and Roosevelt Elementary School from 1940s-1950s, South Junior High School Principal from 1957-1960 and GFPS Assistant Superintendent 1960-1965.**

Dr. Elton Skarperud is remembered as a strong but compassionate leader, who guided his students in a firm and fair

manner. A former student wrote, "Dr. Skarperud was a guiding light for many lost junior high school students during his many years at the helm. He carried out his duties with a stern, but humorous hand. He commanded the respect of each and every one of us that had the pleasure of running into him in the halls." Another student said, "He expected students to work hard and would challenge them to obtain higher levels of academic success. He always had a smile and would greet students in the hall and ask them about their activities, classes and other interests."

Congratulations to Dr. Skarperud as he is posthumously inducted into the Grand Forks Public Schools 2014 Teachers Hall of Fame.