



Julia Sieger, EdD Named Recipient of ELEA's Donald A. Vetter Educational Service Award

GOODYEAR, ARIZONA—September 15, 2016— ELEA is pleased to announce the 2016 recipient of the Donald A. Vetter Educational Service Award. Julia Sieger, EdD of Oro Valley, Arizona, has been named as this year's honoree. Dr. Sieger (known as Julie to most of us), served in the field of education for her entire professional career, many of those years in Lutheran education and in service to ELEA, its predecessor organization ALEA, and several Lutheran schools and a Lutheran university.

After 12 years of serving the Los Angeles Unified School District, as classroom teacher, school librarian, multicultural resource teacher, and coordinator of the program for the mentally gifted, Julie moved to the arena of Lutheran education, serving 15 years as principal of Laurel Hall Lutheran School in North Hollywood, CA. While at Laurel Hall, she directed a rewrite of their curriculum, increased test scores, implemented a new Bible curriculum, and strengthened and increased teacher development. Laurel Hall's reputation grew with Julie doing remarkable work. She later served as the first principal of Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran School in Pasadena, CA, and in two years created the curriculum, organized the physical space, advertised and hired staff and brought about a new Lutheran school.

For many years, Julie served in a variety of capacities on the ELEA National Board of Directors and its California area affiliate and became its National Executive Director in 1992, serving until 1999. Ever a forward thinker, Dr. Sieger created resources and professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators nationwide and saw the organization through much growth. Her tireless service and advocacy to ELEA is not forgotten.

Julie completed her doctorate in private school administration and served California Lutheran University, an ELCA institution of higher learning, after completion of her service as ELEA Executive Director. She has served in several capacities at CLU; as Liberal Studies Director and later as Assistant Dean of the School of Education. She was also elected chair of the faculty for CLU. Her last position at CLU was training director for Project ACT where she once again developed professional development opportunities and became a role model for teachers academically and professionally.

Alan Feddersen, a fellow retired Lutheran education and Julie's nominator for this prestigious award, says "I always have found Julie to be the consummate educator, always looking to improve the status of Lutheran education within our church body. Her focus, her commitment, her broad range of experiences and involvement, and her love for Lutheran education all speak to the appropriateness of this award."

Dr. Sieger will be honored at the February 14-16, 2017 ELEA National Administrator & Pastor Conference being held at the Marriott Norfolk Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia, along with the recipients of the 2016 ELCA Elementary Principal of the Year Award, the 2016 ELCA Early Childhood Director of the Year Award, and the 2016 Distinguished Pastor of the Year.

Since 1988, the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association has served as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's professional educational association and now represents 1400+ early childhood programs throughout the nation, along with approximately 100 elementary and secondary schools. ELEA is also an active member of CAPE – the Council for American Private Education.