



**Florida Council of Instructional Technology Leaders
Instructional Technology Leadership Award:
2008-09 Innovative Principal of the Year
Nomination Form**



District Name: Collier County

Nominating FCITL Member Information

Nominating FCITL Member (must be voting member for district): **Randi Zwicker**

Street Address: **5775 Osceola Trail**

City/State/Zip: **Naples, FL 34109**

Country: **USA**

Phone: **(239) 377 - 0459**

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Representative Email: **zwickero@collier.k12.fl.us**

Principal Nominee Information

Name: **Karey Stewart**

Professional Title: **Principal, Lely Elementary School**

Work Address: **8125 Lely Cultural Parkway**

City/State/Zip: **Naples, FL 34113**

Work Phone: **(239) 377 - 7504**

Work Fax: **(239) 377 - 7501**

Work Email: **StewarKa@collier.k12.fl.us**

All information described in directions needs to be organized into a single MS Word document or Adobe PDF electronic file and sent as an attachment in Word format. Completed nomination materials and digital videos are due by December 12, 2008. Nomination materials are to be sent via email to Gary Evans (gary.evans@audioenhancement.com). Digital videos are to be sent to Andrew Denard, Florida Center for Interactive Media (FCIM), 2010 Levy Avenue, Suite 217, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2737.

**Florida Council of Instructional Technology Leaders
Innovative Principal of the Year Award Nomination**

Karey Stewart is an innovative leader with foresight, especially in regards to instructional technology. In her fifth year as Principal of Lely Elementary School, she leads by example with focus and determination. A few short years ago Lely Elementary was a very traditional school, operating primarily within a 20th century paradigm. Mrs. Stewart's outstanding instructional leadership has moved this school decidedly into the 21st century and we are pleased to nominate her for the Florida Council of Instructional Technology Leaders Innovative Principal of the Year Award for 2008-2009.

Lely Elementary School is located in Collier County and has a student population of approximately 685 students in grades PK-5. Sixty-three percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced lunch, forty-four percent are from non-English speaking homes, and sixty-one percent of the students are from minority populations, largely Hispanic. Fewer than one out of every four students has a computer at home and even fewer have access to the internet in their home.

Mrs. Stewart promotes the regular and effective use of technology in the classroom in many ways. She has created a climate of collegiality in which teachers share their expertise with each other. Mrs. Stewart, although an early adopter of technology, is herself a digital immigrant and realized early on that her largely veteran teaching staff needed a structured, ongoing, and non-threatening inservice program to help them adopt new technologies into their classroom practice. She instituted weekly technology mini-inservices to meet this need. Teachers share best practices not only in the use of technology for teaching, but also classroom and student management, during these sessions. Additionally, she encourages her teachers to take part in training opportunities offered by the district and other local agencies, such as colleges, and conferences.

Currently, all teachers at Lely Elementary school are working to improve their use of the interactive white board. It is apparent as you visit the classrooms at this school that not only are the teachers comfortable with the technology, but the students are as well. It is common to see students and teachers alike make use of multiple tools to accomplish a given task. This choice of tools enriches the learning experience by addressing multiple learning styles and modalities.

Mrs. Stewart holds her teachers accountable for making proper use of the technology tools in their classrooms. She made increased use of the Mimio interactive white board a school goal for this year and required all teachers to include a technology goal related to the use of the Mimio in their personal Professional Development Plan. Each teacher must not only include use of the Mimio in their lesson plans, but must invite Mrs. Stewart to observe them presenting a lesson using the Mimio. Additionally, all teachers are expected to use the Audio Enhancement system in their classroom as well as the document cameras and digital cameras.

She models the effective use of technology by using it in her work. She uses an IPAQ handheld device to accomplish class walkthroughs and observations. Mrs. Stewart also attends as many of the technology training sessions provided to her staff as possible. She can frequently be seen helping students to navigate technology around the campus. She has worked to systematically secure funding for additional technology equipment, recently purchasing Clicker Personal Response Systems and Interwrite Pads for each grade level to share.

Students are the core reason for schools to exist. Mrs. Stewart has instilled in all stakeholders at Lely Elementary that students have an unalienable right to use appropriate technology to accomplish learning. All students at Lely Elementary have access to technology including those in need of assistive devices. Technology is truly used as a tool, not a toy.

All teachers at Lely participate in a Professional Learning Community. Sharing data and instructional practices allows teachers to focus instruction for maximum effect on student achievement. At Lely Elementary technology is truly used as a powerful tool to accomplish goals set for student achievement.

Whether it is in the literacy lab, the media center, or a classroom, technology is infused as a means to achieve learning, not as the object of learning.

Mrs. Stewart's impact reaches all areas of the school community. She has increased the efficiency of her office staff and teachers by instituting procedures to minimize duplication of work, reduce unnecessary paperwork and streamline record keeping by making as much of it as possible available in an electronic format. This includes focus calendars, funding requests, volunteer hours, student discipline, and awards to name a few.

Mrs. Stewart serves as a mentor for new administrators in our district. One of her recent mentees wrote, "As I became an administrator, Ms. Stewart helped me to understand that instructional technology is at its best when we can seamlessly integrate it into instructional best practices with the emphasis squarely on what is best for students and how the technology will benefit, not burden, the instructor." She is well respected by her peers and continues to advance her own knowledge in the area of instructional technology. Through her efforts Lely Elementary has achieved model school status for their Positive Behavior System. She is active in many community and professional organizations and approaches all of her professional affiliations with vivacity.

Parents are an important part of any school. Mrs. Stewart has worked diligently to ensure that parents feel welcomed and involved. All SAC and PTO meetings make use of state of the art translation systems so that their large Spanish speaking and Creole speaking populations can not only understand what is going on, but become an integral part of the school.

Mrs. Stewart has been instrumental in establishing partnerships with businesses and colleges in our area. During last school year she forged a partnership with nearby Physicians Regional Hospital to fund and support the addition of a science lab, called the GoLab, at Lely Elementary School. The science probes and laptop computers that were purchased are being used daily in a variety of ways. Each class from K-5 visits the GoLab biweekly. Mrs. Stewart implemented a GoLab training program for all teachers at Lely Elementary ensuring each not only received proper training, but also that appropriate lesson plans were written and all activities were aligned to standards. Additionally, older students are used to mentor younger students during many of these GoLab classes. This has a dual purpose by providing the older students an opportunity to share their knowledge while allowing the younger students to perform experiments at a higher level of sophistication than otherwise possible.

In order to leverage use of the GoLab equipment and maximize learning, Mrs. Stewart was able to forge additional partnerships. A local architect designed a handicapped accessible butterfly garden for the school. Kraft Construction partnered with the school by building the garden and additionally separate gardens for each grade level. College professors and students, as well as Extension Agents from the USF Extension Office, work with the Lely students each month to maintain the gardens and assist students in performing authentic scientific experiments in the gardens using the science probes from the GoLab.

Three years ago Lely Elementary underwent a major renovation. Throughout each phase of this process Mrs. Stewart was a dedicated leader, doggedly advocating for her teachers, especially in reference to the proper inclusion and placement of technology in the classroom. She reviewed plans classroom by classroom, walked the construction site, and thoughtfully participated throughout the project. Following completion of each phase she carefully orchestrated the opening of each classroom to ensure that teachers and students not only had access to the new technologies installed, but were properly trained in its use and care.

Mrs. Stewart is a champion of her students and teachers. Her competence in establishing a vision of a 21st century classroom and systematically working to bring this vision to fruition has resulted in a remarkable change at Lely Elementary School. Under her leadership the students, teachers and community at large have benefited.

Karey Stewart

Lely Elementary School 8125 Lely Cultural Parkway Naples, FL 34113 239 377-7500 StewarKa@collier.k12.fl.us

Experience

1995 - present **Collier County Public Schools, Naples, FL**

Principal – Lely Elementary School 2004-present

- Created expectation that technology will be used daily in classrooms
- Developed structured plan for implementing technologies in classrooms
- Required technology goal in all CTAS (Collier Teacher Assessment System) personal professional development plans each year
- Focused on Mimio Interactive White Board as a school-wide CTAS goal
- Established weekly technology trainings for staff, currently Mimio
- Attained Model School Status for school-wide PBS (Positive Behavior System)
- Initiated and trained all staff in use of SWIS database to track PBS data
- Recognize and highlight successful teacher Mimio use at monthly staff meetings
- Increased equitable access to technology at all grade levels by ensuring Interwrite pads and Clicker Personal Response Systems are available to all
- Upgraded technology lab and classroom
- Collaborated with Physicians Regional Hospital to provide funding for GoLab with Vernier science probes
- Developed lesson plans and trained entire staff on use of science probes
- Established bi-weekly classroom schedule so all students participate in GoLab with Vernier Science probes
- Established partnership with Kraft construction, local architect, and USF Garden Extension to design, build and maintain butterfly garden and grade level gardens with handicap access allowing USF professors and students to work with all grade levels to perform monthly real life experiments in the gardens with the science probes
- Established expectation that online content area testing will occur school-wide
- Initiated online weekly staff newsletter, online monthly parent newsletter, and online grant application for PTO and SAC funding
- Utilizes IPAQ to conduct, analyze and share classroom observations
- Partner with District personnel to provide timely, relevant inservice for staff

Assistant Principal – Golden Gate Intermediate Center 2003-2004

- Developed and implemented online discipline tracking system
- Developed use of network shared drives for lesson plans and schedule

Dean – Laurel Oak Elementary School 2001-2003

- Developed electronic tracking systems for MIP points and after school enrichment program
- Published online monthly newsletter related to staff development – “Working on the Work”
- Education Foundation Literacy Grant recipient
- Coordinator of Collier Schools Bullying Prevention Pilot Initiative

Teacher – Vineyards and Seagate Elementary Schools 1995-2001

- Fifth and third grade teacher
- Presented technology training to staff
- System Operator for School Network

1984 - 1995

Bowling Green City Schools, Bowling Green, OH

Teacher – South Main Elementary School 1993 - 1995

- Sixth grade teacher
- Representative District Technology Committee on Public TV Access
- Partnership with Bowling Green State University Math LEGO LOGO Project

Teacher – Conneaut Elementary School 1984 - 1993

- K-6 Vocal Music
- Technology Coordinator
- Conceived and facilitated business/school partnership for computer lab
- Incorporated music composition software into daily music instruction

1975 - 1979

Upper Arlington City Schools, Upper Arlington, OH

K-6 Vocal Music Teacher – Wickliffe Elementary School

Education

- **Master of Education in Educational Leadership**
Florida Gulf Coast University Ft Myers, FL 2002
- **Master of Education in Elementary Education**
Florida Gulf Coast University Ft Myers, FL 2000
- **Education Certification Grades 1-8**
Bowling Green State University Bowling Green, OH 1993
- **Bachelor of Music**
University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music 1974

Awards

- 2001 Golden Apple Award Recipient
- 2000 Elementary Social Studies Teacher of the Year
- 1991 Teacher of the Year Conneaut Elementary School
- 1987 Summa Cum Laude Award
- 1975 VIP Upper Arlington Woman of the Year

Membership in Professional Organizations

- NAESP
- FASA
- ASCD
- International Reading Association
- Kiwanis
- National Staff Development Association

Karey Stewart