

As Director of the Champions Together partnership between the IHSAA and SOIN I would like to sincerely congratulate you and your students on becoming a **1<sup>st</sup> year Unified Champion School banner winner for 2016-17**. The efforts schools are making as part of this partnership are teaching the rewards of servant leadership and at the same time leading to more inclusive and respectful schools and communities around the state. This program assists in providing additional opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities in both schools and SOIN community programs to improve their health, learn valuable life lessons associated with athletic competition and become socially included in activities which lead to lifelong friendships.

I have attached a proof of your banner to make sure that we have the name of your school printed the way you would like (e.g., Jr./Sr., Community, Consolidated, with or without the name of your city added, etc.). We will send your order to our printer as soon as you approve of the proof. Unfortunately we are unable to change anything except how your school is printed, but the sooner we hear back the sooner we will be able to have your banner ready.

I will notify you when your banner is ready. This is a noteworthy accomplishment and most schools choose to recognize it in a special way to share this award with their students, staff, community, board, etc. These often take place at a football or basketball game, school assembly, school board meeting or as a way to kick-off another year of Champions Together activities. I will be glad to work with each school individually when your banner arrives to see the best method of delivery and to try and schedule a representative from the IHSAA and/or Special Olympics to be part of the presentation. I will also provide information for a media release and game announcement which you can customize to best meet your needs.

I would like to once again thank you for your participation in Champions Together. By raising a minimum of \$1500 to “pay it forward” for Special Olympics Indiana your school is helping assure the sustainability and growth of Champions Together. Special Olympics spent more than \$150,000 supporting IHSAA member schools last year alone by sponsoring the Unified Champion School banner program, providing \$1500 grants to schools participating in the IHSAA Unified Track and Field Championship, sponsoring the Unified Track and Field Championship, providing school assemblies at no cost to the schools, providing R-Word posters and other general support to schools participating in Champions Together. We are hoping that you will continue to support and grow Champions Together at your school by setting a goal of achieving Unified Champion School status again during the 201718 school year. Your continued financial support will help us to include even more schools and provide more opportunities for students both with and without disabilities.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information or be of any assistance in helping you continue and grow your school’s participation in Champions Together.

Sincerely,  
Lee

Lee R. Lonzo

**Director Champions Together**  
Indiana High School Athletic Association  
Special Olympics Indiana  
[LLonzo@ihsaa.org](mailto:LLonzo@ihsaa.org)  
317-796-5490

