

# Copper Country school board awards held

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By KURT HAUGLIE - DMG writer



HOUGHTON - Although Art Simila couldn't be at the 12th annual Copper Country Association of School Boards awards presentation Wednesday, his more than 20 years of service to local education were still acknowledged.

At the Michigan Technological University Memorial Union Building Ballroom, Albert Koskela, president of the Copper Country Intermediate School District Board of Education, presented the award for Copper Country Education Leadership Award to Simila, who is hospitalized in Marquette.

Koskela said in 1965, Simila was appointed the first representative of Keweenaw County on the newly created CCISD. He was later elected to the board, and in the last 26 years, he has helped in every position from trustee, treasurer, vice president and president.

"He spent a lot of time with the schools," Koskela said.

Being from Ahmeek, Koskela said, Simila was active with furthering education efforts in Keweenaw County.

"When they built the Mohawk (elementary) school, he was instrumental in that," he said.

Koskela said he expected Simila's daughter to take the award to Simila in Marquette.

The presentation of Simila's was the last after awards were given by representatives of member schools for student leadership, outstanding education employee and school service.

Before the CCASB awards were presented, Michigan Association of School Boards awards were given.

They were: Award of Merit to Kathleen Johnson of the Lake Linden-Hubbell Public Schools; Master Diamond Award to Robert Loukus of the Public Schools of Calumet, Laurium & Keweenaw; Advocacy Skills Specialty Award and Master Platinum Award to Nels Christopherson of the Houghton-Portage Township School District and the CCISD; Distinguished Leadership Award to Douglas Hamar of the Chassell Township Schools.

A list of CCASB winners

The following is a list of Copper Country Association of School Boards awards presented at the Michigan Technological University Memorial Union Building Ballroom Wednesday.

### **Student Leadership**

Hannah Rundman, Adams Township School District  
Joey Roy, Arvon Township School District  
Alisha Tilson, Baraga Area Schools  
Joseph Panijan, Public Schools of Calumet, Laurium & Keweenaw  
Anneli Larson, Chassell Township Schools  
Karena LaTendresse, Copper Country Intermediate School District  
Taylor Patchin, Dollar Bay-Tamarack City Area Schools  
Taylor Saari, Elm River Township Schools  
Holly Bekkala, Hancock Public Schools  
Julia Menzel-Smith, Houghton-Portage Township School District  
Curtis Audette, Lake Linden-Hubbell Public Schools  
Brooke Davis, L'Anse Area Schools  
Lilli Larson, Stanton Township Public Schools

### **Outstanding Education Employee**

Duane Pangrazzi, Adams Township School District  
Chet Kanipes, Baraga Area Schools  
Bruce Hannula and John Parsons, Public Schools of Calumet, Laurium & Keweenaw  
Angela Danison, Chassell Township Schools  
Carla Strome, Copper Country Intermediate School District  
Matt Zimmer, Dollar Bay-Tamarack City Area Schools  
Doris Johnson, Elm River Township Schools  
Brian Rajdl and Stephen Smith, Hancock Public Schools  
Julie Filpus, Houghton-Portage Township School District  
Brad Codere, Lake Linden-Hubbell Public Schools  
Melissa Scroggs, L'Anse Area Schools  
Marcia Wilson, Stanton Township Public Schools

### **School Service**

Donald Heikkila, Adams Township School District  
Jane Roy, Arvon Township School District  
JoAnne Mleko, Baraga Area Schools  
Robert Loukus, Public Schools of Calumet, Laurium & Keweenaw (Special Award)  
Douglas Hamar, Chassell Township Schools  
Simple Kindness for Youth, Copper Country Intermediate School District  
Mercy Messner, Dollar Bay-Tamarack City Area Schools  
Debbie Short, Elm River Township Schools  
Carla Bekkala, Hancock Public Schools  
John Gershenson, Houghton-Portage Township School District  
Chester Rheault, Lake Linden-Hubbell Public Schools

Laura Mathieu, L'Anse Area Schools

Paul Saaranen, Stanton Township Public Schools

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