

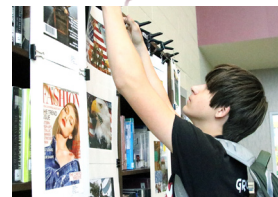
FROM 'C' TO SEA

With nearly **14,200** graduates, Columbus Public Schools' **alumni** lifted their **anchors and spread** across the country, meaning **where ever you are**, you're **#AlwaysADiscoverer**.



1976

 **COLUMBUS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION**



2018

Linking the Past, Present and Future



CPS Foundation Board of Directors

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Dr. Chip Kay, Superintendent, Ex-Officio
Jen Augustin, Class of '05
Candy Becher, Class of '69,
 Board of Education Representative
Doug Molczyk
 Board of Education Representative

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Gayleen Hingst, Class of '60
Shayna Cepel, Class of '11
Abbi Hellbusch, Class of '02
Jamie Ferguson, Class of '76

Past, Present, Future

On The Cover: (1976) Larry Nitz escorts Nikki Nelson to begin their homecoming reign. **(2018)** A Columbus High Student hangs his art in the CHS Media Center prior to the school's art show. The student showcase has been an annual event that allows participants to display works in a variety of ways including sculpting, line drawing and mixed-medium.

Stay in Touch



@CHSAnchorAlumni
 www.cpsanchor.com



The Columbus Public Schools Foundation wants to help link the past, present and future alumni and students by keeping in touch. Check out our Facebook page and website for an easy way to stay connected.

Time to mark your calendars! Upcoming Reunions

Class of 1966 - 60th Reunion

1966 - SAVE the Date. The 60th class reunion will be held during Columbus Days, August 7-8. More information to follow. Please contact the CPS Foundation office if your address has changed.

Class of 1971 - 55th Reunion

1966 - CHS Class of 1971 55th reunion will be held August 14 and 15, 2026. The group will be enjoying both evenings at Riverland RV Park. The agenda is TBD. Contact Marjorie Koefoot (Siems) at mkoefoot@gmail.com.

Class of 1976 - 50th Reunion

1976 - 50th Reunion will be on August 1, 2026 meet at 7:00 p.m. for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at Eagles Club in Columbus, \$35.00 per person. Payments

can be made to Cindy Diederich at 19810 Taylor Street, Omaha, NE 68135 RSVP by June 20, 2026. Casual gathering on Friday, July 31, 2026 at 7 p.m. at Maximus. Those interested in a tour of CHS on Saturday, August 1, 2026 at 9 a.m. contact Linda Krumland at fatcatz@neb.rr.com or 402-270-2060. Our Facebook page is CHS Class of 1976-NE.

1981 - 45th Reunion

1981 - 45th Reunion Planning Committee is planning a reunion for 2026. More information to follow.

2006 - 20th Reunion

2006 - 20th Reunion will be held Saturday, August 1, 2026 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Micek's Bar.

1973 - Meets the first Monday of the month at Maximus at 11:30 a.m. Classmates and spouses are welcome.

1966 - Meets the second Wednesday of every other month (always odd months) at Pizza Ranch at 11:30 a.m.

1959 - Meets the second Thursday quarterly (January, April,

July and October) at Stack n' Steak at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and conversation. Classmates and spouses are welcome.

1958 - Class lunch the first Wednesday of every month at noon at Maximus. All classmates and spouses welcome.



Jasper Owens

JASPER OWENS

Real Estate Agent

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Tickets on sale for Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony 3

DISCOVERERS ATHLETIC HALL of FAME

September 3rd, 2026



Get tickets for the 2026 Induction Ceremony by scanning the QR code and clicking "Register Now." This year's event will be hosted at the Prime 10 Steakhouse and Venue located at 4174 63rd Ave., Columbus, NE.



2005 Girls Cross Country - AHOF Class of 2024



Teams

■ 1976 Girls Golf

State Runner Up

Members: Cathy Curry, Karin Saalfeld, Leatherberry, Denise Thomsen, Joan Olsen;
Coach Denny Borgen.

■ 1976 Wrestling Team

State Runner Up

Members: Wayne Wong, Jim Sackett, Ken Ryba, Mike Bartholomew, Mike, Quinn, Jamie Ferguson, Mike Henggler, Kirk McAndrew, Rudy Glur, Craig Person, Collyn Florendo, Tim Arlt, Craig Marsh, Scott Ferguson, George Rambour;
Coaches Kevin Nolan and Lanny Neese.

■ 1982 Boys Swimming

Medley Relay - State Champion

Members: Barry Whitney, Chris Van Dyke, Pete Hoffman, Steve George; **Coach** Hal Wetherford.

■ 1996 Boys Basketball

State Runner Up

Members: Chris Richardson, Darren Ivy, Josh Svoboda, Jeff Bures, Nate Warner, Ward Behlen, Kelly Berglund, Nathan Blessen, Dan Kolder, Bruce Zabel, Eric Preister, Marc Modelski, Jeremy Frazer, Troy Watchorn, Mike Schaefer, Ross Wurdeman; **Coaches** Bob Hopp and Tom Nelson.

Coach

■ Andrea Smejkal

Girls Soccer,
2005 State Runner Up

Discoverer Award

■ Discoverer Sports Booster Founding Members

Members: Doug Williams, Tom Hunt, Prent Roth, Larry and Susie Kobus, Marv Zoucha, Chuck Francis, Bill Ingold, Jerry Brockmeier

■ Steve Heiser

1st Academic All-American Football Player from CHS

■ Dave McNair

2022 World Masters Athletic Championships, Gold medal sprint hurdles, silver medal 300 hurdles.

Individuals

■ Dick Goc

1960 Track - State Runner Up 100 yard dash

■ Jon Cole

1971 Track - State Champion 880 yard run

■ Stuart Bullington

1970 Football - All State 2nd Team

■ Linda Svoboda

1980 Track - State Runner Up long jump

■ Tara Went

1988 Track - State Champion
300 meter low hurdles

■ Austin Carmichael

2007 State Wrestling Champion
140 lbs & 2008 State Champion 145 lbs.

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Golden Era Award

■ Arnold Oehrich

1923 Football All
Nebraska 3rd Team

■ Roy Houdersheldt

1923 Track State Champion
440 yard dash & State
Runner Up 880 yard run

■ Llewellyn Watke

1924 State Runner Up
Pole Vault

■ Ward Diederich

1943 State Champion Mile
Run, All Class Gold

■ George "Nick" Rambour

1948 Track - State Runner
Up Discus

■ Herman Person

1949 Track - State Runner
Up 120 yard hurdles

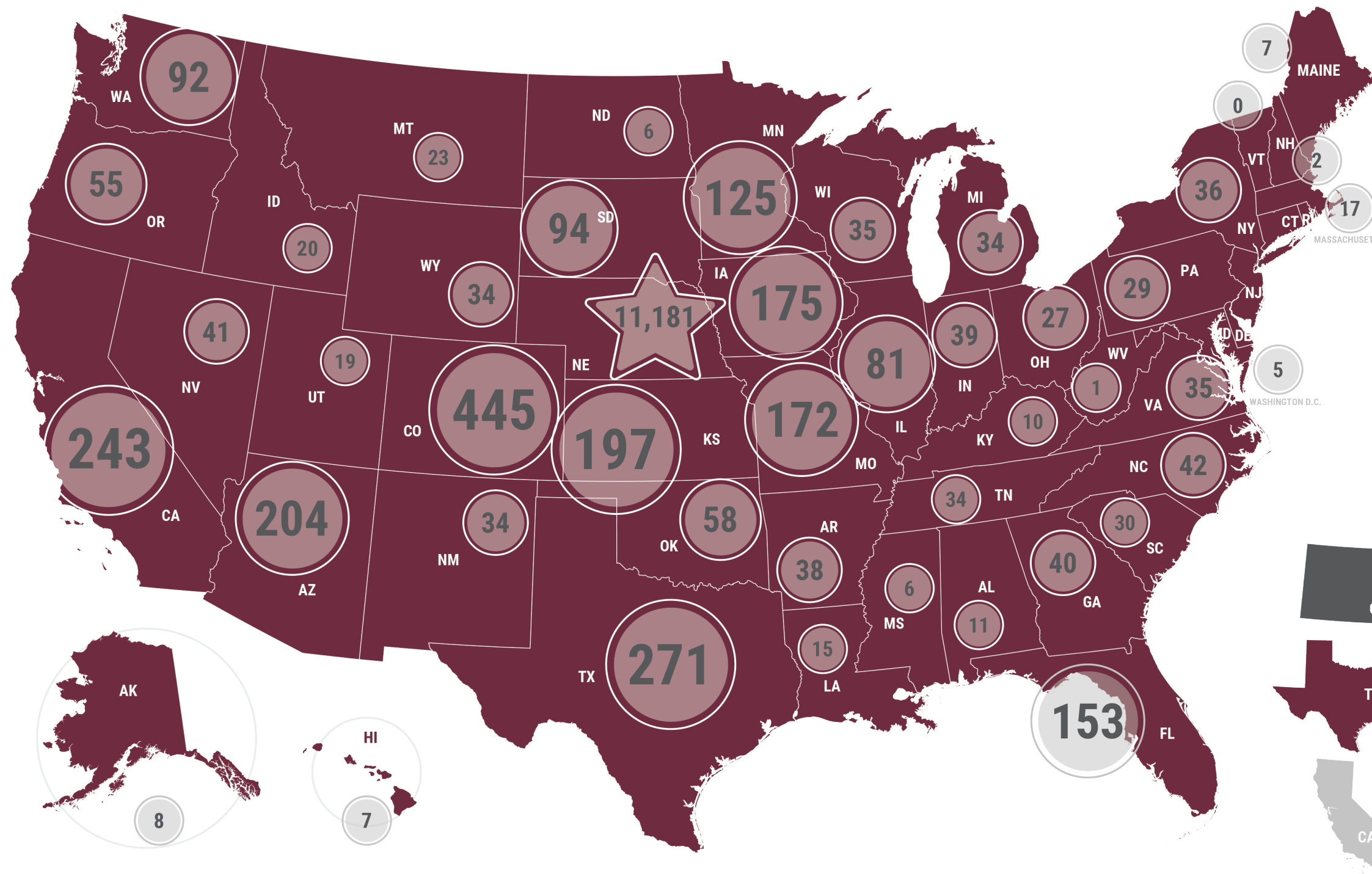


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FROM 'C' TO SEA

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New Educator Of The Year



Kristin Sky

Congratulations to Kristin Sky, 1st grade teacher at West Park Elementary School, on being named the 2026 New Educator of the Year!

The CPS Foundation, in partnership with OneNebraska Federal Credit Union, proudly announced this honor during the CPS Employee Celebration.

This award recognizes outstanding new educators who are already making a meaningful impact through their passion, dedication, and commitment to students. Kristin's work in the classroom is helping young Mustangs and Discoverers learn, grow, and thrive each day.

CPS celebrates staff, recognizes '25-'26 annual award winners

Educator Of The Year

Congratulations to Anne Novicki, 5th-grade math teacher at Columbus Middle School on being named the 2026 Educator of the Year!

Announced during the CPS Employee Celebration, this honor recognizes Anne's outstanding dedication to students, passion for education, and commitment to excellence at Columbus Public Schools.

Through her leadership, encouragement, and daily impact inside and outside of the classroom, Anne continues to inspire students to grow, achieve, and discover their potential. Her commitment to making a difference reflects the heart of what it means to be a Discoverer.

One nominator said, "Anne represents the gold standard of dedication, blending high academic expectations with an unmatched level of personal support for



her students. In her classroom, mastery isn't just a goal — it's a guarantee. She has made it her personal mission that no student leaves fifth grade without a deep, functional understanding of fractions.

"Recognizing that this knowledge is a critical foundation for



Anne Novicki

higher-level math, she refuses to let any child fall through the cracks.

"Her work day doesn't end with the final bell.

Every day you will find her after school providing one-on-one intervention for students who need more time. She then makes herself available online every evening to ensure her students have a lifeline as they work through their homework at home.

"As a Professional Learning Community leader, Anne balances the demands of leadership with her own continued growth. She approaches every training session as an opportunity to sharpen her craft, constantly seeking new strategies to better serve her classroom. This year, she has worked diligently on the fifth

See **NOVICKI**, Page 8

WE ARE COLUMBUS' DOCTORS.

COLUMBUS
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

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Anthony Krueger, MD Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology	Anthony White, MD Orthopedics	Jacob Oran, MD General Surgery	Lauren Jazwick, DO Otolaryngology	Christopher Veale, MD Radiation Oncology	Brandon Borer, DO Podiatry	Tara Sjuts, PhD Psychology	Matthew Piper, MD Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology	Jeremy Albin, MD General Surgery	Dillon Clarey, MD Dermatology	Michael Pitner, MD Orthopedics
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Certified Employee Of The Year

Congratulations to Karen Kuhr, Cassette House paraeducator, on being recognized as the 2026 Operations Employee of the Year!



Karen Kuhr

The CPS Foundation in partnership with Bob & Chris Markham were honored to celebrate Karen at the CPS Employee Celebration.

Her dedication, compassion, and the positive impact she makes each day for the students she works with is truly amazing!

One nominator stated, "Karen's ability to innovate and continuously improve her methods of supporting students is remarkable. Her passion is perhaps best illustrated by her work with a student facing significant sensory challenges.

"This student struggled deeply with various textures and with water — barriers that often limit opportunities in community work settings. Rather than allowing these obstacles to persist, Karen drew on decades of expertise to craft a tailored solution that met the student's specific needs.

"Because of Karen's persistence, that student is now thriving at a job site they truly love, successfully navigating a "wet and dirty" environment they once feared.

"They have opened up socially and emotionally, gaining a level of independence that once seemed unreachable. A once-daunting barrier was dismantled through Karen's compassionate advocacy."

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Columbus Public Schools' 2025-2026 Educator of The Year Anne Novicki (right) poses with One Nebraska Federal Credit Union president Brian Christensen during the district's celebration. Novicki is a 5th-grade math teacher at Columbus Middle School.

NOVICKI, From Page 6

grade math pilot, putting in tremendous extra effort to ensure her entire team can educate students to the best of their abilities. Her colleagues describe her as someone who never ceases searching for, finding, and implementing new approaches to deepen her students' understanding of mathematics."

The CPS Foundation in partnership with One Nebraska Federal Credit Union is proud to celebrate and recognize educators like Anne who help shape the future of our schools and community.

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