

Pioneer Hall of Fame: Paul T. O'Brian, class of 1965



University High School welcomes Paul T. O'Brian '65, into the Hall of Fame for his outstanding contribution as an educator in Central Illinois. In his over thirty-three years in elementary education, O'Brian has taught and positively impacted the children of Bloomington-Normal.

After graduation from U-High, O'Brian received his bachelor's degree in elementary education from Elmhurst College. He received his master's degree in educational administration and foundations from Illinois State University. Immediately after his graduate work, O'Brian laid the foundation for his career as an educator by accepting a position with Bloomington Public Schools where he taught third through sixth grades. In 1989, he became principal of Washington School where he served for five-years. From 1994 through 2003, O'Brian served as principal of Stevenson

School.

At Stevenson School, O'Brian had responsibility over forty staff members and 540 students in grades kindergarten through fifth. From handling budgets, overseeing the special education programs, building partnerships with parents, and implementing bilingual and ESL programs, O'Brian was involved in every facet of elementary education and administration.

In recognition of his contributions, he is a past recipient of the Girls Scouts of America Educators' Award – Administration, American Women's Business Association – Boss of the Year, and Outstanding Young Educator Award from the Bloomington-Normal Jaycees.

In nominating O'Brian for this award, a former student wrote that O'Brian was a "great teacher and principal" and a positive influence in encouraging him to "work hard and get good grades." Congratulations to principal and teacher, Paul T. O'Brian on his induction into the University High School Hall of Fame.