

Gahanna Jefferson Education Foundation  
**2014 CORNERSTONE AWARD HONOREES**

**Jeff Shellhammer**

*"I think back to college, when I wanted to become a teacher who was part of the fabric of the community – I wanted to be the 'town band director.' I feel like I've achieved that."*

Jeff Shellhammer worked for Gahanna Jefferson Public Schools for 25 years as the director of bands. From 1985 to 2010, he directed the Golden Lions marching band, freshman band and the blue and gold bands. He also taught music theory.

"A list of adjectives a foot long would not give justice to the years of work in the Gahanna Jefferson Schools by Jeff Shellhammer," said James Singer, former assistant and middle school band director and current auditorium manager. "His outstanding leadership abilities not only communicated musical ideas, but a philosophy of working that the students could carry throughout their lives."

During his tenure, he led the Gahanna bands to numerous superior ratings at the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) state contest – the highest ratings any Ohio band can earn.

"In many capacities Mr. Shellhammer has served the Gahanna community in numerous ways," said Robert Kessler, former director of bands.

He has been an integral part of the Stonybrook Church music ministry, serving as the music director since 1986. Rev. Nicole Baker of Stonybrook commends Shellhammer's dedication to excellence and calls him meticulous, creative, thoughtful and reliable.

"He is also an excellent communicator and has a fabulous sense of humor," said Baker.

Professionally, Shellhammer has received several awards. These include being inducted into the Edgewood High School Hall of Fame in 2005, being named the OMEA Music Educator of the Year and the John Howard Teacher of the Year in 2006 and receiving the Fremont Ross High School Music Hall of Fame award in 2008.

Since his retirement from 34 years of public school education, he is now an adjunct professor of music education at Capital University and the Ohio State University. He is also an active adjudicator for the Ohio Music Education Association and a sought after clinician for numerous high schools in the area.

Shellhammer received his undergraduate degree from Bowling Green State University and his Master's of Music Education from the Vandercook College of Music.