

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LEA 2018 *Christus Magister* award goes to Rachel Klitzing

Rachel Klitzing was selected by LEA's board of directors to receive LEA's top honor, the *Christus Magister* award. Since 1965, this most prestigious Lutheran Education Association award has been presented to Lutheran educators who have made significant contributions to Lutheran education.

Rachel is executive director of school ministries in the Pacific Southwest District. Previous ministries include teacher, coach, and girls' athletic director at various Lutheran schools. She also served as assistant to the district's previous education executive and as a part time adjunct professor at Concordia University, Irvine. She has been published in various education publications and has provided leadership in numerous education projects and initiatives.

Christus Magister is not Rachel's first award. In 2002, she received the Christian Service Alumnus Award from Lutheran High School of Los Angeles, and in 2008 she was awarded Outstanding Leadership and Service Recognition from the California Association of Private School Organizations. Concordia University, Irvine named Rachel Outstanding Alumna of the Year in 2013.

When asked about her greatest joys in ministry, Rachel said, "Over the years, I have discovered that witnessing the Gospel lived out in classrooms, in a board room, on a mission trip to China or India, on the athletic field, or on the streets of Los Angeles to be among my greatest joys and blessings!"

As an education executive, Rachel faces many challenges every day. She says, "I believe my greatest challenge is to be strong and courageous in my daily walk with the Lord, fully acknowledging in my head and my heart, that I cannot accomplish anything apart from my Lord and Savior, Jesus. When I remember this, I can face myriad challenges, knowing that God is by my side and working in me for His will and with His guidance."

Rachel earned a Bachelor of Science from Concordia University Nebraska and a Master of Arts in Education Administration from Concordia University, Irvine.

In support of Rachel's nomination, one colleague said, "Rachel watches for opportunities to support the hurting. She goes out of her way to provide encouragement to literally everyone. I have seen her encourage and praise teacher after teacher after teacher, school administrators, and people who can reside in the background, like restaurant wait staff. Her words are not contrived. They are who she is."

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