

## NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Rutt Honored as a Pioneer in Education by Missouri DESE**

WARRENSBURG, MO (Aug. 17, 2017) – Beth Rutt, Warrensburg, recently was honored by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with its prestigious Pioneer in Education Award.

Rutt was recognized for her commitment and contributions to education in Warrensburg as a longtime member of the Warrensburg R-6 Board of Education. She was one of six Missourians to receive the award at the 56<sup>th</sup> DESE Annual Cooperative Conference for School Administrators.

Rutt has served on the R-6 Board of Education for a total of 27 years, including five years as president. During her tenure, the district has experienced significant growth in enrollment and capital development.

“It is a true honor to receive this recognition,” Rutt said. “I didn’t receive this award because of what I have done, but because of the many people who have helped and enabled me throughout the years. This is an award for my fellow school board members with whom I have served, as well as the faculty and staff of the district. Warrensburg is and has been blessed some the best teachers and administrators.”

“Mrs. Rutt’s contributions to our community over the past 34 years show her unwavering commitment to Warrensburg,” said Scott Patrick, Warrensburg R-6 superintendent of schools. “Her impact and service during this time has positively affected thousands of students and staff members in the Warrensburg School District. The value of Mrs. Rutt’s leadership and stability are unprecedented. No one is more deserving of this honor and award than Beth Rutt.”

Rutt currently is the director of student activities at the University of Central Missouri. Rutt also has taught courses in recreation and leisure and leadership at UCM and served on a variety of campus committees in leadership roles. She is past president of the UCM Professional Staff Council and a recipient of the J.P. Mees Outstanding Professional Staff Award and the UCM Student Government Association’s James C. Kirkpatrick Excellence in Governance Award. She also provided leadership for the committee that planned the construction of the UCM Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

Rutt is the daughter of the late D. E. Fenner and Liz Fenner of Lexington. She received a bachelor’s degree in recreation and leisure education and a master’s degree in recreation and public administration from UCM. She served as recreation supervisor for the Warrensburg Parks and Recreation Department and joined the UCM staff in 2000 as an academic advisor. She was named director of student activities in 2003.

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Also receiving the award were Sandra Allen, art teacher from Jefferson City; Robert Barrientos, businessman and entrepreneur from Kansas City; Robert Buchanan, retired school superintendent and university professor from Sikeston; Larry Price, retired educator and DESE area supervisor from Albany; and Sally Wear, retired school secretary from St. Louis.

This is the 43<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year that DESE has presented the awards, which honor teachers, administrators, citizens and lawmakers for their distinguished careers and contributions to Missouri public school.

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## **CUTLINE INFORMATION**

Beth Rutt, Warrensburg, recently was recognized by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with its prestigious Pioneer in Education Award for her service to education as a longtime member of the Warrensburg R-6 Board of Education