



City of St. Charles

I L L I N O I S

Proclamation

**IN RECOGNITION OF
2013 EYSO MUSIC EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD
JAMES STOMBRES**

WHEREAS, In the world of Illinois music education, it is nearly impossible to find someone who doesn't know Jim Stombres. In fact, his reputation as a music educator is so marked by artistic excellence, love for kids, strong values and integrity that he has become, for many the very embodiment of the successful high school music teacher; and

WHEREAS, a music teacher for more than three decades, Jim didn't always envision himself in education. While growing up in Aurora, he played trumpet and learned the piano. He eventually decided to pursue a career in church music, attending Moody Bible Institute in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, gaining experience as a youth worker, he completed a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Illinois State University. His first teaching job was in Bradford, IL. He moved on to Yorkville High School; followed by positions at Batavia High School and Naperville North High School. As his own family was growing, he decided to move to Kennedy Middle School in the same district; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, he was invited to become the first band director at school close to home that was just opening its doors – St. Charles North High School. The program at SCNHS has grown considerably in the last 10 years, as has its band staff; and

WHEREAS, Jim is well-known as a jazz educator, having served as the All-State Jazz Audition Chairman for the past 20 years, as well as conductor of the 1999 All-State Jazz Band. He has directed jazz bands and combos at the Birch Creek Music Academy in Door County, WI for the last 23 summers. But it is his work, along with his colleagues, at St. Charles North that has brought unparalleled recognition to the band program there. The St. Charles North Jazz Workshop, with colleague Mark Dahl, was selected as a finalist in the Essentially Ellington Competition, performing at the Lincoln Center in May 2004 and with colleague John Wojchichowski in 2011. They were also selected to perform at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in 2006 and 2011. They performed at the 2007 IAJE Conference in New York and the 2008 and 2013 IMEA All-State Convention, and traveled to Germany in 2004 and 2006; and

WHEREAS, Jim lives in St. Charles with his wife Kristin, an Associate Professor of Elementary Education at Judson College, and their 17 year old son, Austin. Their daughter Ally is now a clinical psychologist in Geneva. Son Alex is now a string education and jazz performance major at Elmhurst College.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor of the City of St. Charles, proclaim that the highest congratulations are in order for James Stombres, as the 2013 Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra Music Educator of the Year. We salute you!

Donald P. DeWitte
Donald P. DeWitte, Mayor

