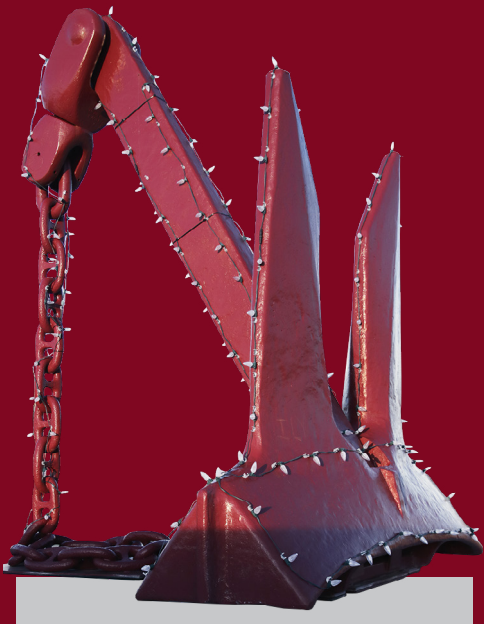


CPS Foundation and Alumni

Linking the Past, Present and Future



The Anchor

Winter 2020

Depue Finds His Passion Helping Others

'03 graduate supports students through career as social worker, area philanthropy

Amy (Busteed) Blaser

CHS Class of 1988

Growing up in Columbus, Eric Depue has fond memories of his CPS career. Depue says he was blessed to have supportive parents and have ample opportunities athletically and musically throughout his time at CHS, which he attributes to helping him stay focused, taught him responsibility, and built lifelong friendships. Eric was involved in basketball, football, soccer, New World Singers, musicals and plays.

He recalls fond memories of teachers, friends, and activities and is thankful to have grown up in a tight knit community.

After graduation, Depue went to the University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota where he played basketball while majoring in Criminal Justice and Sociology. His original intent was to become a police officer. Following graduation, he realized that his talents might be best suited for a different career.

Eric looked to his then fiancé, who was a



school counselor and knew that his calling was to work with and help children.

He went on to receive his Master's degree in Social Work at the University of Nebraska Omaha.

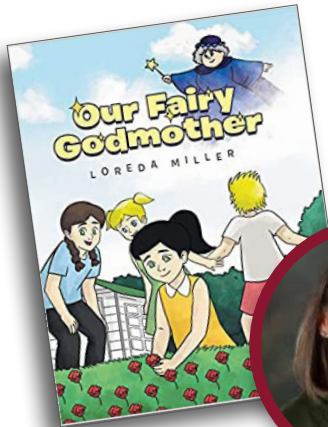
He has been with Millard Public Schools for the past eight years and recently received his license in social work and a license as a mental health-care practitioner (LCSW and LMHCP).

Since 2019, Depue has worked as a counselor in the clinical setting with Play Therapy Omaha assisting children and adolescents.

Depue has a passion for helping others,

Continued on Pg. 6

CPS Author's Corner



LOREDA PERSON MILLER
CLASS OF 1970

Discover more about Loreda Person Miller, Class of 1970 and her journey to writing her book Our Fairy Godmother.



Watch 'Explore' - A Conversation with Discoverer Alum today!
<https://www.cpsanchor.com>

LET'S GET SOCIAL

We're ready to connect with you!

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Service in the spotlight

ON JANUARY 18, 2019,

Eric was featured in I Love Public Schools "The Mind Inside" Episode One. The 30-minute episode follows Eric several times throughout the school year giving the viewer a small glimpse into the complex and difficult situations that students in public schools experience.

In the documentary series, we witness Depue working with students who face various obstacles, often out of their control, and attempting to manage emotions making day-to-day school activities challenging. Each day, Depue is normalizing mental health and teaches strategies to his kids to help them cope with the myriad of issues and barriers that are present in their lives.

He notes that working with a diverse population of students coming from different backgrounds and speaking different languages creating a melting pot within the school environment is one of the many aspects of his job that he finds rewarding.

I ♥ PUBLIC
SCHOOLS
Watch the
segment here!

Grad raised \$13K for youths

Continued from Pg. 2
that's why the 2003 CHS graduate dedicates his time helping students.

A social worker for Millard North Middle School, Depue spends his days working with students and staff to provide additional support for students' social and emotional health.

In his free time, Eric can be found with his family and friends. His wife of 13 years, Jill, and he have three children, Brynlee, Macy, and Marley and a sweet new addition to the family, a puppy.

Throughout the year, people may notice Depue's ever changing

facial hair. This is because Eric is an active member in Mustaches for Kids Omaha, a philanthropic group that chooses a charity each year to donate funds to help kids in the Omaha metro area.

Last year alone, Eric personally raised \$13,000 and the group as a whole raised a grand total of \$750,000 to donate to an Omaha based charity.

Depue still calls his CHS classmates some of his best friends to this day and enjoys coming back to Columbus for the CHS Alumni Basketball Tournament. Just as he did in high school, Depue continues to play basketball at a competitive level.

"If I can help a kid, if I can have a kid know that there's one person who cares and will listen and will be there for him or her, that fills my bucket. That's what I do this for."

Eric Depue in 2019 short film "The Mind Inside"

CHS Class of 2003

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#AlwaysADiscoverer

Top 10 Reasons to Join the CPS Alumni Association

Once a Discoverer, always a Discoverer.

Though you may have graduated years ago, your connection to Columbus Public Schools didn't end there. There are still many meaningful ways you can stay connected to your hometown and alma mater no matter where your life has taken you.

You can start by joining the CPS Alumni Association. Here are the top 10 reasons you should join us:

#1

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR FELLOW ALUMNI.

Our extensive alumni association database keeps us connected to CPS alumni and we love to share their achievements. Through our alumni network, social media sites and newsletters, we can update you on the exciting careers and lives of your fellow CPS graduates.

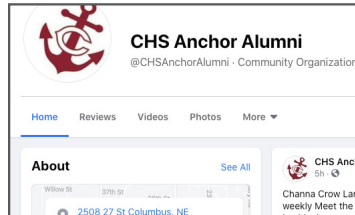
#2

KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LATEST CPS HAPPENINGS.

Our alumni association firmly believes our connection to our alma mater never ends.

That's why we always share the latest happenings at CPS so you can learn more about how CPS has changed, as well as all the important ways it has stayed the same since your time there.

#3



Anchor Alumni Facebook

RECONNECT WITH OLD FRIENDS.

Have you lost touch with a former classmate or friend

and want to get back in touch? The alumni association can help you with that. Though federal legislation does not permit the association to provide contact information without permission, we can pass your request along through our Find-A-Friend program.

If we can verify that the address or email address of your acquaintance exists in our database, we will send a postcard or email to the alum or friend with a request to contact you directly.

Contact Jen Augustin at 402-563-7000 x13033 or augustinj@discoverers.org to learn more.

#4

MAKE NEW FRIENDS.

Sharing an alma mater is an important connection. When you went to the same school as someone, you share many of the same memories – of classes, teachers, activities

and more. By joining the alumni association, you can connect to other people who may not have graduated in the same year as you, but still shared the same Discoverer experience.

#5



2020 Foundation Scholarship Event
Leslie Nielsen Hitchner, Class of 1979

SUPPORT CURRENT CPS STUDENTS.

As alumni, we can appreciate what our CPS educations gave to us.

That's why we promote opportunities for alumni to give back to current CPS students so we can help them make the most of their school years, just like we did.

Continued on Pg. 6

Stay Connected

The Columbus Public Schools Alumni Association wants to help link the past, present and future alumni and students by keeping in touch.

You can find a variety of posts on our accounts including throwback pictures from past graduating classes, accomplishments by present students and upcoming alumni events.

Show your support for the Columbus High School, Kramer High School and Columbus Public Schools by engaging in posts and providing us feedback on what you would like to see.

We are proud of our school and want to display our past successes, present achievements and future efforts involving our alumni.

Check out our pages for an easy way to stay connected daily.



@The_Anchor_CPS



@TheAnchorCPS



@CHSAnchorAlumni

www.cpsanchor.com



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WHEN YOU KNOW BETTER

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-MAYA ANGELOU



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Kara Asmus (402)-564-2769

kasmus@columbuschamber.org

Lighting of the Anchor

Columbus Public Schools Foundation's



Presented by:



WATCH ON FACEBOOK
November 16-25
PERFORMANCES PREMIER EACH DAY AT 7 P.M.



Balmer Bros Band

Virgil Balmer, Class of 1988 and Larry Balmer, Class of 1989

Leah Skorupa Mezger

Class of 1999

Karissa Gleeson & Jessie Nelson

Class of 2020

Class of 2018

Steve Hurt

Class of 1971

Natalie Raimondo

Class of 2018

Rachel White Scott

Class of 1994

Natalie Behlen Rieck & Gina Behlen Borer

Class of 1996

Class of 1990

Dr. Ron Ernst

Class of 1974

WE LIGHT THE ANCHOR
NOVEMBER 25TH
& CELEBRATE WITH SONGS
FROM CPS STUDENT GROUPS!



Trey Rinkol & Mitchell Greiner

Class of 2017

Class of 2017

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- Columbus Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Clinic

#AlwaysADiscoverer

Continued from Pg. 4

6

PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS.

When you join the alumni association, you will always have the latest information on alumni events and activities so you never miss an opportunity to reconnect to your classmates and school.

7

ORGANIZE REUNIONS.

The alumni association can help you plan and manage your class reunions by providing class lists, mailing labels, a nonprofit bulk rate for qualifying mailing and reunion-planning tips.

The association can also help you organize tours of Columbus High School or Columbus Middle School.

8

SHARE THE GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN YOUR LIFE.

We love to talk about the good things happening to our alumni. By joining the association, you can easily share news about the important events in your life with your former classmates and all CPS alums.

Tell us about your graduations, weddings, reunions, babies, new jobs, retirements and grandkids and we will share the good news in our alumni association newsletter.

9

REPRESENT CPS.

Alumni association members get to showcase their connection to CPS. Annual alumni association members receive a CPS window cling and lifetime alumni association members receive an engraved brick with their name and graduating class at the Anchor at CHS.

They also receive recognition on the website.

10



CHS Volleyball '73 and upcoming Lighting Of Anchor Event

REMEMBER AND REFLECT.

Life is busy and we are often caught up in today's to-do-list or tomorrow's goals, but by joining the alumni association, you give yourself an opportunity to look back. When you join the alumni association, you're making a conscious decision to think back to your CPS experience and remember what it taught you.

Put simply, it's a chance to remember where you came from and appreciate where it took you.

JOIN TODAY!

To start enjoying all the benefits that come with being an alumni association member, fill out the membership form below or visit <https://www.cpsanchor.com/alumni/become-a-member-of-the-alumni-association.html>.

— **BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** —

First Name: _____ Class of: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____

Email: _____

I would like to become an annual member for the year of 2021.
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$20
You will receive an alumni association window cling!

I would like to become a lifetime member.
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP \$300
*You will receive a brick with your name and graduation year.
Your brick will be found at the anchor located at Columbus High School.*

Mail form and payment to

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Attn: Alumni Association
PO Box 947, Columbus, NE
68602

Make check payable to
CPS Foundation



<-- Scan the QR code on the left with your mobile device or visit [cpsanchor.com/alumni](https://www.cpsanchor.com/alumni) and click on "Become a Member"



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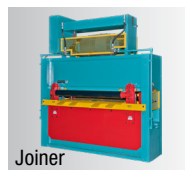
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Time to mark your calendars! **2021 Upcoming Reunions**

1960 - Postponed until Summer of 2021. For more information, contact Gayleen Hingst at 402-563-2109 or dghingst@email.com.

1965 - Postponed until Summer of 2021. For more information, contact Carol Syslo at 308-550-0451 or Check Facebook for more details.

1990 - Postponed until Summer of 2021. For more, visit their Facebook page.

1970s - Class of 1970s Celebrating 50 Years! - Postponed until Aug. 2021 For information, contact Terri Hoesly, thoesly@hotmail.com

Class of 1971 - Celebrating 50 Years!
August 13-15, 2021

Friday night, August 13th at Henry on 11th - Hos d'oeuvres and BYOB

Saturday night, August 14th -

Ag Park Ballroom, Social, Buffet and Live Music. We will be joined by the Class of 1970.

Sunday morning, August 15th -

Farewell Brunch, TBD

Other events: Golf, Tours of Middle School (our CHS) and new CHS.

Be sure to update your contact information at:

1. Join FB group:

Class of 1971, Columbus, Nebraska

2. Email Kristine.Kingston@gmail.com

3. Update at: <https://www.cpsanchor.com/alumni/update-contact-information.html>

Class of 1982 - CHS 40th Reunion coming 2022
Contact: JT Tarnick at jimtarnick@gmail.com or Cathy Lococo at studiovoce@sbcglobal.com
Please provide your updated contact information - email, address and phone or fill out the updated contact information link on the CHS Alum Page.



Click here to access the [CHS Alum Page](#) and update your contact information to stay informed.

Regular Reunion Events

1956 - Meets at 10 a.m. the first Wed. of every month at Stack & Steak for morning coffee. All classmates welcome.

1958 - Class lunch the first Wednesday of every month at noon at Maximus. All classmates and spouses welcome.

1959 - Meets the second Thursday quarterly (January, April, July and

October) at Stack n' Steak at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and conversation. Classmates and spouses are welcome.

1960 - Meets the first Tuesday of each month at Maximus at 11:30 a.m.

1962 - Meets the first Friday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at Stack 'n Steak. All classmates and spouses are welcome.



Date set for Centennial Anniversary celebration

Centennial's 20th Anniversary is just around the corner and will take place during the 2020-2021 school year. **The 20th Anniversary Celebration and Family Night has been rescheduled to Friday, May 14th from 5-8 p.m.**

Principal and Class of 1992 alum, Andrew Luebbe would like all Centennial alumni to submit photos that could be shown during

the celebration.

Please send digital images to luebbeaj@discoverers.org or mail copies or duplicates of printed photos to Centennial Elementary School c/o Andrew Luebbe, 500 Centennial St, Columbus, NE 68601.

Photos will not be returned so please be sure to send a copy or a duplicate image.



The 2020 Discoverer Dash was held Sept. 25. More than 100 participated in the annual run including this group of elementary students. For more photos from the event, check out our [Facebook page](#).



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