

## Dr. Ashli Skura Dreher

Dr. Ashli Skura Dreher, New York State Teacher of the Year for 2014, has been teaching for 27 years and works at Lewiston-Porter teaching special education. She has earned two National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certificates as a Middle Level Generalist and Exceptional Needs Specialist and is an active NBPTS educator serving on the NYS Teacher of the Year Council and Orleans-Niagara Teacher Center Board. Dr. Dreher was inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame in 2017, and she has a wealth of knowledge in the field to continue to bring to her position as a Grand Island Board of Education Trustee.

In 2002, Dr. Dreher earned a School District Leadership Certificate from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and she completed doctorate at the University of Rochester in the Teaching and Curriculum Program in 2022. She earned a master's degree from D'Youville College in special education in 1998. Dr. Dreher was selected for the Canisius College Distinguished Alumni Award where she earned an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and English in 1995 while participating in three athletic programs and appearing on stage in Little Theater and chorale performances.

Having written and spoken extensively about a myriad of educational issues locally, nationally, and internationally throughout Europe and in Peru and China, Dr. Dreher has the expertise needed to serve on a school board. She is a contributing author to the book titled, *Confronting Oppressive Assessment: How Policy-Makers are Rethinking Current Educational Reforms* and the Educator's Voice article, *Functional Literacy in a Life Skills Curriculum*. She also served as the New York State United Teachers' Education and Learning Trust Regional Coordinator for 10 years to organize turnkey training and professional development for school employees including teachers, school-related professionals, and nurses and has spoken at numerous state and national conferences. Dr. Dreher produced and hosted a television program to highlight outstanding public school teachers called *Inside the Classroom* which was selected for National Alliance for Community Media Awards and aired on local channels weekly for three seasons.

Dr. Dreher has two daughters, Heavyn and Skye, and a fiancé, Rick, all of whom have been supportive of her endeavors. Heavyn is a 2014 graduate of Grand Island High School and 2019 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (PENN). She is currently a medical student at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Skye is a tenth grade student at Grand Island High School. Dr. Dreher enjoys watching Skye play indoor travel and school volleyball and beach volleyball for the AVP with Santa Cruz Volleyball Club in California and Optimum Beach in Tampa, Florida as well as basketball for school and travel teams. Both of Dr. Dreher's daughters have participated in the Grand Island music program and DECA business program at our schools.

