

Class of 2024

La Crosse Central High School and the Centra High School Alumni Association are proud to announce the 2024 inductees into the La Crosse Central High School Hall of Excellence: Erin Bagniewski and Daniel Hundt.



Erin Bagniewski embarked on a dynamic journey of service and leadership, beginning with her graduation from La Crosse Central High School in 1996. Her academic pursuits led her to the University of St. Thomas, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, laying the foundation for her future endeavors as a consultant and healthcare operations and process improvement professional in her early career. In 2016, Erin made a courageous decision to resign and embark on a soul-searching mission. This transformative period led her to Livingstone, Zambia, where she dedicated six impactful weeks volunteering in schools and community programs, igniting her passion for humanitarian work in Africa. Upon her return, Erin's networking efforts led her to HealthPartners, a prominent US-based health nonprofit, where she joined their Uganda field office. In Uganda, she immersed herself in local communities, forging deep connections, and making a meaningful impact through her involvement with the Rotary Club of Mbarara. Returning to the US in 2018, Erin pursued her graduate studies, focusing on Comparative and International Development Education, committed to enhancing education quality in under-resourced African primary schools. Her dedication to this cause led her to Africa Strong Inc., a nonprofit she joined in 2016, where she now serves as the volunteer Executive Director, pouring her heart and energy into empowering communities across Africa. In December 2021, Erin furthered her commitment by joining the board of Books For Africa, aligning with her passion for improving education access and literacy in Africa. She expresses gratitude to Central High School and schools throughout La Crosse for their support, facilitating the donation of books to Zimbabwe, Kenya, Somalia, and Tunisia, fostering a brighter future for countless individuals. Erin's journey exemplifies resilience, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to making a difference in the lives of others, both locally and globally.



Daniel Hundt graduated in the top 5% of his class from La Crosse Central High School in 1972. He went on to get his Bachelor of Science degree from UW-La Crosse in 1977 where he majored in computer science with a math minor. In 2001 he graduated from Western Technical College as a Microsoft Specialist. Dan started working for G. Heileman Brewery in 1977. It later

became City Brewery. Dan retired in January of 2022 after working there for 45 years. Dan was a member of the Central Booster Club from 1988 to 1996 where he served as Vice President of Membership, the Assistant Editor of the Sports Book, and the 50/50 Raffle Guy. He is still doing 50/50 raffles for the Alumni Association and having fun! Dan also co-chaired the 50's Rock N' Roll Revival Dance for 9 years and several Fun Night fundraisers. Dan became the father of the Biggest fans of Central Girls Basketball in 1988 with his son Christopher and daughter Amanda. He also did computerized statistics for the girls from 2004-2017. Dan was one of the founding members of the Central Alumni Association in 1993 and has been serving as the Treasurer since 2004. Dan also served as the Treasurer for the Central Centennial Celebration in 2006 and chaired the East Entry Improvement Project selling bricks, blocks, benches, plaques, and lamp posts from 2003-2006. In addition, he co-chaired the Babe Weigent Statue Project located at 16th & Cass Streets, the location of "Old Central". Dan was the Co-Founder and has been the Treasurer for "Everybody Can Dance, Inc." from 2006 to present, along with his wife, Ellie. This non-profit group provides two dances per year for people with special needs, their families and friends. The average attendance at these dances is 225 for the spring event and 275 for the fall event, which is the "Oktoberfest Special Festers Ball". Dan's wife, Ellie is a 1972 graduate of Central and together they won the Oktoberfest Volunteers of the Year in 2016 for this dance. In addition, Ellie won the Jefferson Award for this dance in 2016.