



HOWARD LAKE-WAVERLY-WINSTED
Hall of Fame 2016 Inductee
Neil Sideen



Neil Sideen lived his life as more than just a teacher of English, literature, and journalism. Throughout his years at HLWW High School, Neil touched the lives of a wide range of students, who came to him from a variety of backgrounds and interests. Neil developed and maintained the first vocational program in television production for a high school in the state of Minnesota. The video program channels, KRUM and KRUD, were viewed by many in the community. Neil channeled his experience working at KTCA Channel 2 and KARE 11 into educating many students who later went on to professional careers in television and film.

Neil used his sense of humor and his desire to impact young lives to attract students to his program which created a long-standing service to the community through filming local athletic contests, arts, and other educational events. He expected professionalism and responsibility while giving his students the freedom to explore ideas and create.

Neil had his border collie Penny trained as a Therapy Dog and a READ dog. Over many years, Neil and his wife Carol brought Penny to the HLWW Schools to work with students who were struggling with reading. Neil particularly enjoyed seeing the happy faces of the children when they worked with him, Carol, and Penny. The Sideens also hosted many foreign exchange students at HLWW high school.

Although Neil passed away in 2015, the impact he made on the school district, communities, and students of HLWW Public School District will last forever.