

2020 NDCA Hall of Fame Inductee – Yvonne Cole

Yvonne Cole has a B.S. and M.S. degree in Biology from St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1968 she started her teaching career at Lindbergh High School in St. Louis, Missouri. It was there in 1969 that she founded the Lindbergh Pom Pon Squad, now the Lindbergh Dance Team. Yvonne coached the team for 33 years from 1969-2002 and was honored to celebrate their 50 -year anniversary in the Fall of 2019.

Throughout her coaching tenure, the team developed into one of the most competitively successful dance team organizations in the state of Missouri. Under her direction the team captured 10 consecutive state championships throughout the decade of the 80's. Besides success in Missouri, the team traveled to contests in Ohio, Florida and Texas where they excelled as well.

Yvonne was one of the founding members of the Metropolitan Area Pom- Pon Association, now the Missouri Dance Team Association. The original local organization of 13 member schools now boasts a membership in the hundreds. MDTA, as it is now called, hosts an annual statewide dance team championship which has been showcasing Missouri dance team talent for over 30 years. Mrs. Cole has served as Past President of the organization and currently fills the roles of Vice President and Judging Coordinator. With its focus on providing dance team performance opportunities and professional development for coaches through annual conferences. The organization continues to grow and serve the dancers and their coaches in the state of Missouri.

Yvonne expanded her talents and expertise into the judging area as well. She has judged contests in Illinois, New Mexico, Ohio, Arkansas, Texas, Missouri and the Contest of Champions in Orlando Florida. She has served as contest coordinator for Oklahoma and Missouri and is the founder of the Yvonne Cole Lindbergh Dance Invitational in St. Louis, MO. She has also served as an advisor-trainer for the Universal Dance Association.

Mrs. Cole has received numerous awards throughout her career. These include the Lindbergh Coaches' Hall of Fame, Lindbergh Leader, Lindbergh Distinguished Educator, Fenton Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Educator and Incarnate Word Academy Distinguished Alumnae, among others.

Yvonne was also involved in coordinating the Metropolitan Area Pom- Pon teams during halftime performances for the St. Louis Football Cardinals. Under her direction, the organization fielded over 200 dancers performing pom, kick and flag routines for these halftime extravaganzas. She was also recruited to train the St. Louis Football Cardinals "Little Red Line" dancers, ages 8-12, who performed at the football games as well as local venues.

Yvonne has been married to her husband Robert for 48 years and they reside in St. Louis, Missouri. They have two sons, Robert and Ryan, a daughter-in-law, Tamika and two grandchildren, Robert and Sydney. Yvonne remains involved in the dance team community throughout the state of Missouri. Since retiring after 33 years of teaching high school Biology, Yvonne is presently engaged in her new career as a Biology adjunct professor at three local colleges and universities in the St. Louis area.