

Mark Lawley Bio

Mark Lawley is in his 35th year as a choral conductor and enjoying his 19th year as the choral director at Willard High School. He has served as the president of Southwestern Division of ACDA, Missouri Choral Directors Association and South Central Missouri Music Educators Association. He currently serves MCDA as HS Choir Repertoire and Resources Chair as well as serving National ACDA on the National Standing Committee on Education and Communication. He earned his Bachelor's degree and certificate recital award in piano from Evangel University followed by a Masters degree in conducting from Missouri State University. He is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda, NAFME, ACDA, MSTA, MCDA and MMEA.

Lawley is the founder of Springfield Summer Singers, Springfield Gospel Chorus, Springfield-Drury Girls Choir (now named Girls Choir of Springfield) Drury University Chamber Choir Festival, Boys Choir of Springfield Choral Festival and served on the founding board of Boys Choir of Springfield. He thoroughly enjoyed his post as artistic director of both Boys Choir of Springfield and Springfield-Drury Girls Choir both of which gave invitational performances at MMEA in 2013 and 2015 respectively. Today marks his 8th invitational performance at MMEA having given 6 MMEA performances with Willard Choral Ensembles. He enjoyed sharing the Willard Choirs in invitational performances at National ACDA in 2003 and 2007, Southwestern ACDA in 2008 and National NAFME in 2000.

He is the recipient of the Luther T. Spayde Award, South Central Outstanding District Director Award, the 2018 National Federation of State Schools Associations Music Educator of the Year Award, Willard Teacher of the Year, Willard HS Teacher of the Year, Missouri Fine Arts Academy Award for excellence in teaching and in celebration of contribution to students' lives, the 2012 Drury Faculty Member of the Year Award, the 2016 Drury Faculty Member of the Year Award, Nobel Foundation Award for excellence in teaching and Lifetime Membership Award from National PTA.

Lawley's path has been peppered with excellent music teachers and remarkably gifted colleagues. His life has been enriched by a loyal companion in his wife of over 30 years, LORI! She is the glue that holds us all together. They have 3 children Devin, Drew and Brooke whom they admire immensely. Their spouses Ruthie and Meghan have brought more love into the Lawley family. All of their worlds have been turned upside down by the miraculous gift of 5 Granddappers Hudson, Gavin, Harrison, Jaden and Nolan.