

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #226 (2005-2006)

March 27, 2006

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: DENALI AWARD RECIPIENTS - WINTER 2006

PERTINENT FACTS:

To Alaskans, Denali means "great one," and the Anchorage School District is proud to have employees that display greatness in the areas of achievement, service and dedication. Twice each year, a committee of Anchorage School District employees selects a number of co-workers and a team of colleagues that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to its mission of educating students for success in life.

The certificated Denali award winner for Winter 2006 is David Kohler of Service High School. David has chaired Service's special education department for the past eight years. Each semester David assists with HSGQE accommodations for his school's 200 special education students. The past few summers, David has also worked with special education students in the district's summer school program.

In one of many letters of recommendation, David's colleague GayLee Erickson wrote, "David is up to date on curriculum offerings, general and special programs during and after school, as well as other alternative supportive or behavioral community opportunities. The students are his top priority and he is always available to them whether they are in need of program support, aid in self advocacy, scheduling, post graduation plans, or even a good listener for personal situations. At the same time David is also available to the staff by offering the benefit of his experience in understanding special education regulations, timely reporting, wording of and writing educational plans, brainstorming solutions for students' program needs or concerns."

Under David's leadership, the Service High School special education department has become a model program throughout the district. David is rightfully proud of the fact that Service high has not had a case go to due process. Colleagues say David

lives by a quote that is posted in his office. It reads, "Students may forget what you say, but they will never forget how you make them feel."

The classified/support staff member receiving the Denali Award is Pamela Hard of Orion Elementary School. Pam has worked as a teacher assistant for more than 15 years in the early childhood special education program.

In a letter of recommendation, Pam's colleague Lisa Hubert wrote, "Ms. Hard has an uncanny way of knowing exactly what needs to be done in the classroom. She is also an experienced hand in assessing children's needs. She is able to tell if a child is not feeling well, missing home, feels sad, etc. She will attempt to meet the individual needs of every child. Initiative is never an issue for Ms. Hard. She does not hesitate for a second to think if this in her job description. When a job needs to be done, she is the first one there, never asking for help, only concerned that the job is done correctly and efficiently."

In addition to care and compassion, Pam brings creativity into the classroom. Colleagues say her ideas are fresh and artistic. Her enthusiasm for learning impacts her students positively, even after they've left the classroom.

The Publications team located at the King Career Center is the recipient of the Denali Team award. Also known as the Print Shop Crew, the team of Victor Bailey, Pam Butcher, Sven Jordan and Ralph Hollis make the ASD look good in print by creating and printing everything from business cards, school forms, school newspapers, posters and letterhead. Together they bring more than 60 years of printing experience to the district.

Carol Storrs, the KCC secretary notes, "The staff has never failed to provide professional and courteous help to the many district employees who request printing services. This often involves last-minute and urgent revisions. Each one of the print shop staff is up to date and proficient in the varied and technical aspects of their job. They work as a cohesive unit to produce first rate graphics for the Anchorage School District."

It is recommended that the School Board recognize these Denali Award recipients, and all of the nominees, for the example of excellence that they set for the entire Anchorage School District community.

Attachment

CC/ME/HE

Prepared by: Heidi Embley, Communications Specialist

Approved by: Michelle Egan, Director, Communications

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
WINTER 2006 DENALI AWARD NOMINEES

Certificated:

Angela Armstrong, Chugiak High
Nancy Brain, King Career Center
Ella Brown, Boniface Center
Joan Hoeler, Russian Jack Elementary
David Kohler, Service High*
Heidi McGouch, Campbell Elementary
Debbie Quiroz, Ravenwood Elementary
Melissa Timberlake, Eagle Academy Charter
Geep Baranow, Alpenglow Elementary

Classified:

Marie Baker, Tyson Elementary
Pamela Hard, Orion Elementary*
Rick Lloyd, Hillcrest Elementary
Pattie Mullins, Eagle Academy Charter

Team:

AVAIL Staff, AVAIL
Chugiak Freshman Academy, Chugiak High
Dimond Freshman House, Dimond High
Fairview Elementary Staff, Fairview Elementary
IT Staff, Boniface Center
Publications Team, King Career Center*
Romig Care Team, Romig Middle

*award recipients

Denali Award Nomination Review Committee:

Russell Jackson, Accounting Payroll Assistant
Kersten Johnson-Struempfer, Assistant Principal, Eagle River High
Glen Nielsen, Principal, Denali Elementary
Laurel Vorachek, Director, Testing and Assessment
Val Woods, EEO Investigator