

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #150 (2006-2007)

December 11, 2006

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ALASKA ART EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

*ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by continuing to retain, recruit and train highly qualified staff.*

PERTINENT FACTS:

Leslie Matz is getting an early start on being the Alaska Art Educator of the Year for 2007. The Alaska Art Education Association bestowed the title on Les at its fall conference in Juneau. Les has taught at Dimond High School since 1988 and currently chairs the school's Fine Arts Department. He will be officially recognized at the National Art Education Association conference in March in New York City.

Rebecca Voris, a past president of the AAEA, was happy to recommend Les for the honor because of his dedication to art education and installation of art in public places. She cites his work as a member of the 1% for Art Committees for Chinook Elementary and Dimond, and the building design committees for South Anchorage High School and Dimond.

An accomplished artist himself, Les understands that each student's life is like a blank canvas that becomes illustrated by the choices they make. Rebecca says Les shines in the classroom and works with students beyond the school day including special Saturday events devoted to the Dimond High Art Club, which he initiated.

"His students receive awards and recognitions for their art works, including the prestigious regional Scholastic Arts competition and AP Studio Art portfolio evaluations. He works relentlessly to accommodate his students' needs," Rebecca says.

Les is a past winner of the BP Teacher of Excellence award and has also volunteered in the community as a Junior Olympic Nordic ski coach. In 2003, he earned the Anchorage School District's Art Department Outstanding Volunteer Award. A past national Nordic ski champion and All-American, Les also was a member of the first winter bicycle expedition to ride the Iditarod Trail in 1989.

This is a request that the School Board recognize Leslie Matz for being chosen as the Alaska Art Educator of the Year for 2007. His dedication and commitment to his students and his art make him a credit to our district and his profession.

CC/ME/TW

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