

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM # 220 (2006-2007)

March 12, 2007

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF BOB COSTAS GRANT FOR TEACHING OF  
WRITING WINNER

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

PERTINENT FACTS:

Technology strengthens the connection between students and the world around them with the help of Mary Richards, winner of the 2007 Bob Costas Grant for the Teaching of Writing. Her students at Eagle River High School give her high marks for incorporating DVDs, MP3s and other methods of digital storytelling to make their subject matter come alive. Richards also links teachers and students statewide with her "e-zine," *Northern Lit*, which publishes their writing.

As a member of the Alaska State Writing Consortium, Richards helps preserve indigenous Native Alaskan oral traditions through technology. She also helps students reach out to their parents serving in the military by publishing their work online, so they can see their children's progress despite the distance.

"Her dedication to literature inspires me every day," said one of her students, which makes her just the type of teacher the judges were looking for, according to Gaston Caperton, president of the College Board, which produces the SAT and AP curriculum, and sponsors the \$2,000 grant.

"I commend you for your innovative approach to the teaching of writing and for the powerful impact you are having," Caperton wrote to Richards.

This is a request that Mary L. Richards be recognized by the Anchorage School Board for her achievements and for receiving this grant.

CC/ME/HE

Prepared by: Terry Wilson, Communications Specialist

Approved by: Michelle Egan, Director, Communications