

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #134 (2007-2008)

December 17, 2007

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF CASEL AWARD WINNER, VICTORIA
BLAKENEY

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

PERTINENT FACTS:

A true honor has been bestowed on our district. The Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning has named Victoria Blakeney as the first winner of the Joseph E. Zins Purpose Award for Early Career Practitioners in SEL.

Vickie is the district's coordinator for Social Emotional Learning, which concentrates on the social and emotional development of students, making them feel more competent, responsible and able to adapt to life's changes. CASEL officials stated that Blakeney's efforts were impressive and her leadership has taken SEL to levels in ASD not typical of other school districts.

One of the award committee members, said t SEL education in ASD has been an "enormous collective effort, but it has been brought to fruition in so many ways through Vickie's tireless efforts on many fronts, in classroom after classroom, with teacher after teacher, student after student."

The Zins Purpose Award recognizes two professionals under 40 years of age who make outstanding contributions to advance the science or practice of SEL. Vickie Blakeney received her award last Monday in New York City.

This is a request to acknowledge the district's leader of the SEL initiative for her achievements and for the national recognition she honestly deserves.

CC/ME/TW

Approved by: Michelle Egan, Communications Director
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