

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
- REVISED -

ASD MEMORANDUM #145 (2007-2008)

January 14, 2008

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: DENALI AWARD RECIPIENTS - FALL 2007

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 Fall 2007 is Bobbi Jo Erb of Mirror Lake Middle School. Bobbi Jo has worked in the district for 10 years, most recently as a mathematics teacher and department chair at Mirror Lake. She organizes her classroom around Smart Board technology and updates her class Web page daily to include video podcast examples of student homework. In her letter of recommendation, principal Scott Batchelder wrote, "Her mathematics background has made her invaluable in student scheduling and master scheduling. When the district supplies raw data for schools to analyze, Ms. Erb steps to the fore and makes sense of the data, spots trends, and gives insightful meaning to the information." Bobbi Jo is also receiving recognition for her work through the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics where she has been asked to lead a session at their next conference. Her work is also posted on their national Web site. Congratulations to Bobbi Jo Erb.

The classified/support staff member receiving the Denali award is Audrey Richardson, Administrative Assistant at Romig Middle School. Audrey is described as the "backbone of Romig" and the "school mom" because she is called upon so much to help staff members and students with everything from school-related issues to personal matters. Some of Audrey's supporters say she seldom stays within the parameters of her job description and gains job satisfaction instead by fulfilling whatever need someone at the school might have at any given time. She's even been known to give out her personal phone number to new teachers offering her assistance at any time. Romig's Counseling Department and Special Education

Coordinator's letter of support reads, "When she makes decisions, they clearly reflect the best for students and staff. She makes herself available well beyond her scheduled work week, ensuring the success of Romig's many diverse programs." Congratulations Audrey.

Scenic Park Elementary School's principal Karen Pollard is the administrator/principal recipient of this fall's award. In one of many nomination letters, teacher Caroline Rodgers wrote, "I can't thank Mrs. Pollard enough for helping facilitate my love for my work. Whenever I attend a new training or class, it is strongly evident that Karen's management style and decision making skills made on behalf of our building has set Scenic Park's bar of excellence at its highest." Karen is credited for organizing several programs with high student participation rates. Those programs have created a sense of community and family at the school. Supporters say her love for physical and mental wellness is even rubbing off on them, and the staff is now proud to report they are an accumulated 300 pounds lighter. The staff's enthusiasm for healthy living is transitioning to greater awareness among students as well. The respect and care Karen gives every staff member and student at the school is noticeable. Congratulations, Karen.

The Denali team award goes to the custodial staff at Eagle River High School where they take great pride in their work and treat the school as if it were their own home. The crew is noted for the positive interactions with staff, students, parents and the community at large. In a letter of support, teacher and Lt. Col. (retired) David Ennis wrote, "The ERHS custodial staff goes out of their way to keep ERHS the cleanest and neatest high school I have ever seen. The custodial supervisor takes pride in her staff's performance and accomplishments. I am also impressed with her willingness to go above and beyond when it comes to learning who the rest of the school staff is. She was addressing me by name well before I knew hers! To me, that level of friendliness and respect goes well beyond the norm." Supporters say the entire team is pleasant, efficient and "sympathetic to the capricious nature of adolescents while holding them accountable for their actions." Congratulations to BPOs Steve Litton, and Hui-Sun Cremer, custodial supervisor Evelyn Franklin and night crew members Manuel Sanchez, Mickey Young, Fredric Boyle, Mario O'Ryan, Levy Montuya, Jr., and Fernando Gamboa.

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, Senior Communications Specialist
Approved by: Michelle Egan, Director, Communications

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Fall 2007 DENALI AWARD NOMINEES

Certificated:

Bobbi Jo Erb, Mirror Lake Middle School*
Ellen Frohlich, Abbott Loop Elementary

Classified:

Esther Brouhard, Kincaid Elementary School
Audrey Richardson, Romig Middle School*
Vonda Roark-Martinez, Service High School

Administrator/Principal:

Karen Pollard, Scenic Park Elementary School*
Melissa Terrell, Student Nutrition
Jean Lenoir, Music Department

Team:

21st CCLC coordinators, 11 elementary schools
Custodial staff, Eagle River High School*

* denotes award recipient

Denali Award Nomination Review Committee:

Russ Ament, Director, Human Resources
Janet Campbell, Administrative Assistant, Gladys Wood Elementary
Julia Melson, Assessment Systems Specialist, Assessment and Evaluation
Susan Okeson, Principal, Chugiak Elementary
Shirley Reeves, Career Resource Advisor, Dimond High School
Randy Ribble, Project Manager, Facilities