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# 2016 AWARDS

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Alaska Head Start Association



JANUARY 25, 2017

APIA



## Assistant Teacher of the Year

### Diana Merlino

We would like to nominate Diana Merlino for Assistant Teacher of the Year. Diana has been working for our Head Start program as a Teacher Aide in Dillingham. Diana joined us with little to no early childhood experience, but was ready to jump in with both feet and learn fast! Diana always comes to the Center with a smile on her face and is warm, gentle and approachable to children. She has an easy laugh that brightens the countenance of the children in her class. Diana enjoys playing with children, engaging in their activities and extending their learning through effective questioning and involvement.



Last April, the Lead Teacher in her classroom was on unexpected leave for two weeks. During that time, Diana stepped into the role of Teacher. Though she was nervous to take on the extra responsibilities and duties of a Lead, she impressed us all with her strong presence in the classroom, ability to juggle multiple tasks at once, and persevere through trying situations. Diana even learned how to input observation data into children's online assessment portfolios so there was no lapse in documentation of children's progress. It was fun to watch her grow in confidence during those two weeks, as she realized her potential as a teacher in an early childhood classroom.

Diana attended events outside of her regular work week like Home Visits and Family Fun Events. In addition, she completed multiple college credits this year to complete the training required to obtain her CDA credential. She attended a workshop in May to assemble her portfolio, and will likely be awarded her credential this Fall. Considering this was Diana's first year as an early childhood professional, we are proud of her outstanding accomplishment and its contribution to our program.

## Content Area Specialist of the Year

### Kate Berkoski

Kate Berkoski has had a long history with the Head Start program. She originally started when we approached her to mentor a new teacher who was struggling with the demands of being a teacher. Later, when we were granted the Pre-K program, Kate was hired on as one of the school district's certified teachers placed in the Head Start classrooms. Although she had been in a Head Start classroom numerous times before, it was during this time that Kate was introduced to Teaching Strategies Gold and the CLASS tools.



When the Pre-K program went away, Kate applied to be the Education and Disabilities Content Manager, a position that she has now been in for 2 years. Kate has made incredible headway in that 2 years. She has created strong relationships with all the teachers and with the teacher mentor coach. She and the TMC have worked tirelessly in creating and re-working systems to support teachers and provide for the best possible outcomes for children. She has opted to participate in every training opportunity that she can in order to get herself up to speed with all the Head Start requirements. Most recently, she completed the My Teaching Partner Coaching training and is extremely eager to get this exciting new project off the ground.

Kate was accepted into the UAA College of Education and has been diligently working on night classes to complete her master's degree- even though she has four children at home and she and her husband run several businesses in town.

All this is amazing in itself but really, the most noteworthy trait in Kate is her unflappable optimism! Kate is ALWAYS supportive and positive. Not just with kids and staff but with everyone all the time. Kate is dedicated to seeing the positive in people and the potential they have in them. She works with those strengths and interests to help each teacher reach their potential. Kate is a joy to have around and will always find the positive in every situation, even when other managers have reached their limit of patience. Kate has taught us all to find the positive spark in every situation and build on it; for that I appreciate her each and every day!

## Maintenance Staff of the Year

### Dan Kemp

Dan Kemp has done an amazing job of keeping things running smoothly for the Head Start Department over the past 4 years. Even though he is extremely busy as one of only 2 ½ maintenance personnel for the whole organization, he is always willing to make time to fix things for Head Start.

Dan is a man of many talents. He is certified in both refrigeration and mechanics which is extremely helpful to the Head Start department- especially given the trouble we've been having with our aging walk in freezer. He also became a dishwasher expert this year as we limped through the year on a barely functional dishwasher that was expected to keep up with about 200 meals a day!

He has adjusted his weekly work schedule so that he can empty the kitchen grease trap over the weekend so the smell doesn't drive everyone out of the building and also so he can get larger projects done while there are no children in the building.

Dan is willing to travel to the remote sites and work on buildings, boilers, or busses. He works with local entities to secure places to work on vehicles, and to provide follow up to the projects that he completes. He does extensive research on maintenance issues and seeks out experts when it's a problem that is out of his realm. He is even thinking about going to get his school bus mechanics endorsement so that we can finally get our bus maintenance taken care of within the organization instead of having to work with fly- in mechanics.

Whether he is flying out to Manokotak to work on a mini truck, or mounting bulletin boards in the Dillingham center, Dan is always cheerful and makes himself available as often as he possibly can.

Dan is a valued member of the team and we wanted to take this opportunity to let him know how much we appreciate his hard work and dedication.



## Assistant or Deputy Director of the Year

### Bonnie Monson

Bonnie Monson is our nominee for the Alaska Head Start's Assistant Director Award. Bonnie joined our agency in 1999 as a classroom aide, we supported her through the CDA process and she was quickly promoted to a teacher and then began working on her Associate's in Early Childhood before it was a requirement. She received her AA and then continued her education and obtained a Bachelor's in Early Childhood and Family Studies. Five years ago she was promoted again to Center Director of our Chugiak Center. This isn't an unusual story since many of our staff have started in one position and increased their education and skills as they move through our Career Tracks. However, Bonnie is a true treasure. She is an excellent manager, beloved supervisor, and a fun co-worker.



This center has had the lowest turnover among all of our centers since Bonnie became the supervisor. In addition, the majority of her staff live in another community and continue to make the daily drive to Chugiak from the Mat-Su Valley rather than transferring to one of our valley centers because they love being at Chugiak and being on Bonnie's team.

Bonnie is the type of person you just love to be around; she is always positive, supportive and finds the humor in most situations. She has many fine qualities, however what I appreciate the most about her is her kindness, humbleness, sense of humor, and her willingness to pitch in on any project. She has a strong commitment to our mission, children, families, and staff and gets things done on time and with quality. She is an excellent role model to others and effortlessly demonstrates our core values of being strengths based and family centered as well as our core competencies of accountability, flexibility, communication, teamwork, humor, and lifelong learning.

One indication of how highly functioning and highly respected the Chugiak team is under Bonnie's leadership was their nomination to receive the Governor's Council on Disabilities – Inclusive Practice Award in 2016. While they did not win the award (there were 12 nominees) they were recognized for being the very first early childhood program to ever be nominated. Several paragraphs from this nomination are listed below which sums up the environment that Bonnie and her team have created:

*The Chugiak center has a feeling unlike any other Head Start center I have visited. It's housed in an old Elementary school and even though the building is old, bathrooms are located down the hallway, and the floors creak when you walk, the atmosphere is very warm and welcoming. Staff members know the families in the community and most parents are known by the teachers in every room, not just the one their child attends. On any given day parents are evident in the building, whether they are helping in the office or classroom, just visiting to watch how their child is doing or volunteering in the Parents Room.*

*At the core of this positive feeling of community is the trust the staff members have earned from the families. Parents are treated with respect and compassion. This respectful attitude is genuine and doesn't change behind closed doors. Families are not judged and instead are truly partners in a joint effort to help each child grow and reach their potential.*

*It can be difficult and intimidating to have another professional come into your classroom. CCS has a culture of welcoming the additional support, listening to advice, and being willing to give new interventions a try. This attitude leads to creative solutions to individualize curriculum and classroom activities and help students with disabilities remain in a general education classroom with their typically developing peers. CCS is making their programs work according to best practice and they make it feel natural and right.*

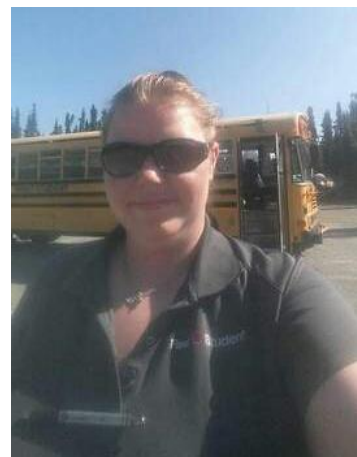
*At the heart of their success is the fact that they believe in what they do. They truly value each child and understand that their relationship with the child's parents is essential. These beliefs drive the program. The end result is a quality early childhood program where the uniqueness of children and their families is celebrated. They are an exemplary model of inclusive practices for preschool programs.*

It does not matter what the task is, Bonnie approaches it enthusiastically and professionally whether it is CLASS observations, managing the many components of Head Start, the PIR, training others, resolving conflicts, or motivating others around a common purpose. For our annual celebration this year which was a 70's theme she and her staff wrote and performed the Gilligan's Island theme song with Head Start words. It was hilarious and the joy and satisfaction that the Chugiak team exhibited during the performance gave a glimpse into the friendship, comradery, and relationships that are common at this center under Bonnie's leadership. Play, Laugh, Learn, Grow – that's our motto and with Bonnie's team it is also their way of life.

## Bus Driver of the Year

### Jasmine Dirkes

It is not every day we come across a person whose dedication to a cause is such that, it supersedes our greatest expectation. Jasmine Dirkes is a supervisor for transportation through First Student. It may be her first year in her supervisor role, however her many years of experience as a driver and past parent have prepared her to professionally handle the various challenges of her job. I would like to recognize Jasmine for her service in keeping our students safe as they travel to and from school each day. As the late afternoon approaches, when most employees are winding down their work day, you will find Jasmine still working away. On a regular basis, she drives for both A.M. and P.M. routes due to driver shortage. This ensures all children are able to be transported to and from school. That is true dedication to the families and children we service. She has made a point to drive every single route for all of our centers, and uses this to her advantage in how to create the safest routes possible. Regardless of the driving Jasmine does, she is very timely in returning route changes to all of the centers, and makes herself available to staff for anything. While driving for our center, Jasmine made a very positive impression on the parents and families she interacted with. Most often, the bus driver is the first, last, and sometimes only adult with the center the families interact with. Drivers are vital and hold a very important role in the child's education. Jasmine took time to interact and network with anyone she came into contact with. Her passion for head start is clear, in that she pours her heart into her work every day. On many occasions, she would stay at our center and assist with any volunteer jobs that needed done not related to transportation at all. Jasmine, truly is someone who brings joy to and touches the lives of many, which is why I nominate Jasmine for bus driver of the year!



I am pleased to nominate Jasmine Dirkes for AHSA's Bus driver of the year. Jasmine goes the extra mile every day to ensure that the children have a safe and enjoyable ride to and from school. Jasmine sings with the children at the bus stops as the aide is assisting the children off and on the bus. She knows each child and their parents/ caregivers by name. All the bus aides, children and parents enjoy Jasmine's upbeat and friendly personality. She has a way of putting a smile on everyone face.

Jasmine was parent at CCS Early Learning before she became a bus driver. Jasmynes first year as a bus driver her child was enrolled at the center, so she drove the children to school and waited and helped at the center until it was time for her afternoon bus run, this saving the agency money on gas. Her children have all moved on into elementary school but Jasmine still comes to volunteer at our Head Start program. Jasmine is a talented artist and has drawn all of the backdrops and decorated for all the programs the children perform for their parents. She has made flier for many of our events at the Chugiak Center and decorated her bus to help with enrollment.

Thank you for considering Jasmine Dirkes for AHAS's Bus Driver of the Year. Once again it is my pleasure to nominate Jasmine Dirkes for AHSA's Bus Driver of the Year!

# Leadership Award of the Year

## Cathy Gruver

### **Nomination 1:**

To work with a Human Resource Director that really knows how to help others, to guide others into and through a path of success, is a treat! Cathy encourages and directs teachers and aides to continue growing in their education, her library of books and resources is a help to those who come to her. She schedules seminars, meetings and trainings to make sure the staff are up to date with the latest trainings in child development. She also has developed a reasonable workload and provides training, technology, resources and tools for more effective time management and center operations.

Cathy is very professional and proficient. She implements human resource strategies by establishing accountabilities in each of our 5 centers and administration office through Work Plans which help our organization run smoothly. She also keeps the centers staffed with responsible and educated personnel.

Cathy is very involved with numerous committees in our organization. Planning and organizing, I would have to say, is one of her strengths. She is always exploring ways and ideas to improve our Action Plan, Self-Assessment Plan and the Human Resource department.

Cathy has been a crucial team member at CCS Early Learning for over 20 years and we hope she doesn't retire too soon, but know the year is coming when it will be her last. She has established an awesome foundation in our HR department that will continue to benefit our Head Start Organization for years to come!

### **Nomination 2:**

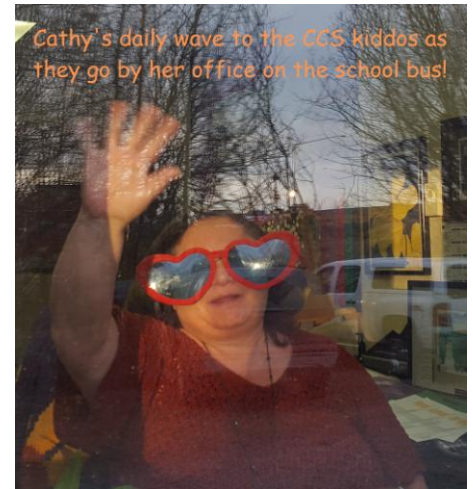
Cathy has been very dedicated to CCS Early Learning and making sure our agency is in the front of the pack with innovations, new standards, or regulations. She goes well beyond her HR role in our agency as well as being the best HR person I've ever worked with. She has a genuine love for the staff and is fair to all and works to improve staff abilities. She puts in numerous hours at the job and makes sure the agency is in compliance.

I think her best leadership quality is making staff think and work things through. We all want to solve problems, but Cathy helps us get to the solutions together. Cathy is very deserving of this award and our Agency could not do better finding a person who better represents our mission of improving the lives of our children and families.

### **Nomination 3:**

Cathy does an amazing job at CCS Early Learning. She is available and very helpful when staff have inquiries, requests, or any complications needing assistance. Cathy assists with a large variety of items beyond traditional Human Resource duties. Cathy contributes a great deal to our continued high quality services at CCS Early Learning. I would like to nominate her to get a well-deserved award for her efforts.

**Five more nominations were submitted for Cathy Gruver.**



# Head Start Mother of the Year

## Erin Andresen

This nomination is for Erin Andresen to be considered as Alaska Head Start Associations 'Mother of the Year'.

Erin is a gifted educator, who is regarded by children, community members, and our Wrangell Head Start teaching team as a classroom teacher, integral in the fabric of our day! Erin volunteers 3 hours a day 9am -11am, 12-1pm, for 12 hours a week throughout the whole school year, and has now for the past 5 years!

Erin has had 3 children go through our Head Start program in Wrangell. She is very familiar with our classroom and children, and has over the years shaped our routines with her insightful perspective and stellar contribution.

A very perceptive and helpful person, Erin is exceedingly present in the moment with young children, Giving freely of her time, emotional energy and talent. It is absolutely amazing that she can be a mother of 4 young children, and in the classroom, is mother to another 19, meshing with the hive of activity to be the bus monitor, field trip chaperone, library lady, and assist with daily food service, clean up and recess duty!

Erin's greatest strength and contribution is her diligence in guiding children 1:1 or in small groups in fantastic activities that build foundational school readiness. With her calm, polite, approachable demeanor, Erin is a child magnet. Children feel highly respected, heard, loved and regarded for who they are, by Erin. With children in close to her; she interacts on their level to ask them for their very best; whether it is making a pro-social decision about a friend, expanding and ex-tending a concept, or stretching a fine motor, language or cognitive skill in a multi-media art project she designed. Recently Erin read a story about horses which led to horses being built in the play dough area which led to role playing sounds and movement of being horses and carers of horses.

Erin is always reading with children, supporting their growing relationship with sounds and symbols. Imaginative thought and creative action are hallmarks of her contribution. Her value of literacy and love of children draws a closeness amongst us all that builds with each year. Erin changes lives one child at a time!

Erin brings into the classroom, her 2 year old son. He has learned to talk this past year with us. His presence gives children the opportunity to learn and grow in how to care for someone younger, more vulnerable than themselves. Head Start pre schoolers gave him words for his thoughts and wishes, practiced looking out for him, and leaned how to redirect and problem solve with him, including coaching him to "go ask your mom."

When not in our classroom or on field trips, Erin and her family are outdoors, hunting and fishing. The beach where they live has petroglyphs, and always a welcoming fire, that community members are welcome to pop by and visit. As a family of 6, we feel exceptionally honored to have children Mindy, Everett, Jenna and Chase, part of our lives.

You are wondering where you can get another Erin? Wait, there is more! Erin is Wrangell Head Start's Parent committee secretary/ treasurer, attending all meetings taking minutes and organizing our bookkeeping! We joke about growing her energy and commitment into a commercial product that sustain our pro-program forever. Perhaps her mite and multi dimensionality, going above and be-yond on Parent Committee and as Classroom Volunteer, is due in part to her genetics. Erin is Tsimshian/Aleut/Norwegian, and freely shares her culture with children.

We look forward to having Erin's youngest child in our classroom next year. Per-haps Erin will consider having more of her own children, as I cannot imagine a classroom without her!



## Administrative Support Staff of the Year

### Bob Stevenson

It is a pleasure to nominate Bob Stevenson as 'Administrative Support Staff of the Year' for his outstanding performance providing grant support services to Tlingit & Haida Head Start. Bob is valued highly for his professionalism and interpersonal skills.

Bob's expertise and background in budgets and grants, are skills Head Start has benefited from immensely for over the past 11 years he has been the Grant Accountant. It is an onerous task to support the financial solvency of Head Start and Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska 'The Tribe'. Bob is responsible for submitting to the United States Department of Agriculture accurate data reporting the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), for food service reimbursement, as well as our in-kind services for critical financial match.

Bob is a rare human who can function on all levels. Harnessing complex statistics he creates and communicates budgetary documents in an enthusiastic, fun, digestible way. All the while, demonstrating a high regard for the Head Start program and mission of supporting 300 children and families annually.

Bob sets an exceedingly high professional standard that is contagious, drawing colleagues into his river of excellence. The previous Health & Nutrition Coordinator Melissa Morgan, describes Bob as the 'king' of pivot tables, comfortable with defining data and presenting graphics. He consistently responds to any inquiry, promptly and professionally. Bob has the uncanny ability to communicate financial facts with kindness and patience, when explaining statistics to those of us less comfortable and adept with the language of data.

Bob is a favorite of the Head Start Management Team. Frequently invited to our self assessment retreats, he participates in the process with a practical eye that looks to continuous program improvement, posing ideas for strategic planning. Comfortable in business domains of macro and micro economics, Bob is able to analyze the past, review current status and chart future projections. His forward thinking goals and strategies for Head Start action plans, have been invaluable, impacting 10 south-east Alaskan communities, and improving services to all Tribal members.

"It has been my pleasure to provide helpful, friendly support to managers and staff as we work on issues and the administrative reporting needs of the grants while ultimately providing services to those in need."- Bob Stevenson (July 2014 Tribal News)"



## Teacher of the Year

### Sandra Churchill

Sandra Churchill should be the poster child for CCTHITA's Head Start Program. She has shared her story and it inspires me to nominate her without hesitation for the Teacher of the Year award of the Alaska Head Start Association's Awards of Excellence. My experiences of working with Sandra, I always like to refer back to her Head Start story. When she shares this, it's not for attention or for desiring recognition; she shares it to help encourage her colleagues that once you are determined to complete a major goal, it can be done!

The Head Start story of Sandra began the year of 1998 in Wrangell, Alaska when she volunteered at the Head Start program in Wrangell, Alaska. This rural community is her hometown where she can proudly stand as an alumni of the elementary and high school; she's raised her children here. After volunteering a position in this program opened up which rarely has any turnover. What I love about Sandra's character is her humbleness as she felt she may not get this position because she wasn't qualified and only volunteered. Her other characteristic strengths are to have a positive attitude and she decided to be a risk taker and try for this position and said, "I thought it wouldn't hurt to try!" These traits brought her to her next stepping stone and she was hired as the teacher aide/cook in 1999. This is inspiring to hear her determination yet at the time, Sandra didn't realize this is the beginning of a new career.

Sandra began to set small goals to work on her qualifications in early childhood. She planned to work on her Child Development Associate credentials and achieved this goal in 2000. The realization of her capabilities and goal setting skills helped her to move forward in this career. In 2005, Sandra accomplished her AAS degree in Early Childhood Education and soon became the lead teacher for her site. As she worked for Head Start, raising her family, and continue to pursue her education, she successfully and persistently pursued her BA in Early Childhood Education. To hear Sandra share her success story with Head Start gives me a prime example to refer her to our staff on achieving their education to be a qualified early childhood educator. Her unknown passion was ignited in Head Start to work with families and students in her home community in education and this makes an inspiring story.

Sandra not only works for Head Start but is also active in the Native community and is the President for her local Alaska Native Sisterhood. Sandra does extra duties for Head Start and is the mentor teacher for all our thirteen sites. She loves to support her colleagues and most importantly loves to support our children and families. Tlingit & Haida Head Start are fortunate to have a dedicated educator as Sandra and we're humble to be a part of her story. Without hesitation, I nominate Sandra Churchill as the Teacher of the Year award of the Alaska Head Start Association's Awards of Excellence.



## Community Advocate of the Year

### Linda Torgerson

As the (new) Education Coordinator with Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) Head Start, I would like to nominate Linda Torgerson for the Community Advocate award. My nomination stems from a professional and personal point-of-view. Officially, Linda filled a teacher mentor role in our collaborative school district and head start pre-k program. In actuality Linda's role has overflowed into many more underscoring her dedication to early childhood education. She inspires all CCTHITA Head Start teachers.

As a mentor to the JSD/CCTHITA Head Start pre-k program, Linda helped my teaching team and I dream, plan, and develop experiences for our students to learn from. Her guiding principal was play. Linda showed us how to create environments that fostered curiosity with our students channeled through meaningful relationships. I learned the symbiotic fluidity between teacher and student from watching Linda's interactions with our Head Start children. Linda flowed from teacher as she introduced a wheat grinder to students and with genuine dialogue becoming a parallel explorer with the students figuring out the mechanisms to which grains of wheat snowflake into tiny grains of flour. The children's curiosity carried Linda along as she planted new words, new ideas, new sights, and new smells! Wherever the children's question lead Linda followed as friend then teacher. I saw how our students trusted Linda's activities and engagement.

Linda is also famous in CCTHITA Head Start for bringing nature into the classroom and making the classroom nature. Each fall Linda enlists Juneau community members and nearby residents to save, dry, and combine fallen leaves for the annual "Autumn Leaf Jump." Days are set aside by not only CCTHITA Head Start classes but several Juneau elementary and middle classes to take part in a classic childhood memory—raking, jumping, and landing in cool, crispy foliage that was once green turned shades of burgundy, gold, and brown. Linda has also shown our teachers how to mimic natural history museums in their classrooms—setting up a curio of bird nests, eggs shells, and colorful feathers. She effortlessly weaved two topics of museums and birds. Introducing our student to the cultural concept and experience of museums to our students whom had little experience. Yet their knowledge and recognition of birds, specifically raven and eagle, excited them as she drew on their expertise pulling them further along by expanding their ornithology repertoire. Linda has been instrumental in fostering learning and exploration amidst the beautiful Juneau area.

Just being around Linda and students has solidified by career in early childhood education. When I started as lead teacher I did not know specifics of ECE; yet Linda's words of wisdom and modelling brought out the ECE within me. Linda has extended her teaching to other CCTHITA Head Start teachers as well through quarterly workshops and inspiration ECE articles with her commentary. Although the JSD/CCTHITA Head Start pre-k collaboration program has ended, I'm sure Linda's contributions and commitment to CCTHITA Head Start will not.



## Humanitarian of the Year

### Kathleen Rhea

It is an honor and a delight to nominate Kathleen Rhea for the Humanitarian Community Award for her exemplary service in behavioral health support to Tlingit & Haida Head Start children, families, teachers, Management Team, Coordinators, and the community of the state of Alaska.

As The Tlingit & Haida Head Start contracted Behavioral Health Consultant for 16 years, Kathleen has performed monthly classroom observations, consultation, and education for teaching teams, providing referral assistance and recommendations for enrolled children and their families. Her support spans all environments; on-site in 6 Juneau classrooms, at Family Nights, on field trips, in the home, and anywhere in the community. Kathleen encourages me as the Behavioral Health and Disabilities Coordinator, to confer with her on any wellness topic, and supports all our 50 teaches at trainings and workshops, representing 10 communities, 16 classrooms, 300 children and their extended family. The depth and breadth of Kathleen's behavioral health knowledge, experience and expertise, seems limitless. Her enormous reach is highly appreciated and actively tapped, by Tlingit and Haida Head Start.



As the Behavioral Health Clinician for Juneau Youth Services, Kathleen establishes, coordinates, provides and supports the Early Childhood Mental Health Project of child-specific and program-level consultation, clinical assessment, treatment planning and oversight, technical assistance, chemical dependency counseling, family support services, positive interagency relationships and coordination (Head Start, Juneau School District, AEYC-SEA, Partnerships for Families and Children, and the Office of Children's Services), a learning network, individual, group and family therapy, professional and community based early childhood mental health trainings. It is clear that this part time project greatly benefits families in Juneau, the mental health community, and the state, beyond Head Start.

As Kathleen speaks of retirement, it is awe inspiring to take stock of her professional legacy in Washington and Alaska. Kathleen's resume reads as a history of mental health advances in child and family development in the Northwest coast, spanning 40 years. It traces the key role she has played in developing emerging contemporary practices in infant, toddler, young child, adolescent, adult, and parent, strength-based services focused on family, and being reflective!

As a pioneer promoting and training early childhood development courses, Kathleen's teaching spans Washington State College, Anchorage Community College, Alaska Community Action Program, Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC), and Infant Learning Program at Chugiak Children's Services, and that was just during the 1970's!

Pairing clinical work with her drive to educate and pass on the value of young children and supported families to others, Kathleen has presented at the Alaska Early Child Mental Health Institute, Alaska Children's Mental Health Conference, AEYC Southeast Conference, Southeast Pediatric Forum, Parent-Adolescent Mediation Training, and Symposium on Youth and Violence. Kathleen has been a guest speaker at University of Alaska Southeast, and invited by me to present at our own Tlingit & Haida Head Start Pre-Service. Kathleen has been a clinical member/board member/board chair, providing consultation for Juneau Suicide Prevention efforts, Signs of Suicide programs in Juneau high schools, Blanket of Wellness (BOW) Advisory Board, NAEYC and AEYC-SEA, and Association for Play Therapy (APT). As a consultant in the burgeoning Early Child Mental Health field in the 80's, Kathleen's thumb print is on countless Alaska wide projects of BOW Mental Health Consultant, (where I met her in 1994), Tlingit/Haida Head Start Alaska Native Parenting Video Project, and Trained Facilitator of "Working Respectfully with Families", Juneau Coalition for Conflict Resolution and Peer

Mediation, and “Growing Up Again” Parenting Series Curriculum. Enough? No! There has somehow been time to volunteer while raising a family, as a Parent Volunteer at Auk Bay School Site-based Council, Parents in the Schools Program, and volunteer in Elementary, Middle and High school classrooms.

What is astounding about Kathleen Rhea is her devotion to the mission of strengthening families in communities through partnering with others. In my role as Behavioral Health & Disabilities Coordinator for Tlingit & Haida Head Start, I benefited from Kathleen’s co-facilitation with Deborah Harris in a Reflective Supervision support group with a small group of professionals.

Over 50 attendees, including 4 Head Start staff, recently received a 4 day ‘Circle of Security’ training, and are now planning small parent education groups to convey a child’s need to explore and to return for reassurance. Kathleen spear headed this training coming to our state.

Kathleen is a Licensed Professional Counsellor, approved Counselor Supervisor for Professional Counsellors, and Certified Chemical Dependency Counsellor, Level 2. Being a life-long learner, is demonstrated in holding a Master of Science in Child Development and Family Relations, and a Masters of Arts in Psychology. Devoting herself to spreading the work of Early Child Mental Health best practices, Kathleen is celebrated by me and an increasing number of professionals statewide, for her inspired work, stellar influence, and gentle mentorship.

I always find in Kathleen an astute, ready listener and resourceful advisor. As co-members of the THREAD Partnerships For Families & Children; Medical Behavioral Health subcommittee, I value Kathleen’s input on documents I oversee, of the Behavioral Health Service Plan, Policy & Procedures, Forms, Memorandums of Agreement, Reporting and Self Assessment. I also look to Kathleen to support and guide me, and contribute to training the team of Behavioral Health Consultants that serve each Head Start classroom, when we meet in teleconference. When you meet Kathleen, you know you are meeting a caring person with many stories to tell. Ask her about past visits to remote communities of Angoon and Hoonah, by float and wheel plane as Head Starts Behavioral Health Consultant!

Kathleen is a living treasure, very well known in the state, and highly appreciated by Head Start teachers. One teacher shared “Kathleen is dedicated to the mental health and well being for not only the children in the classroom but also the staff working in the classroom. She is truly committed to the families, staff and children in a holistic way. What I like most about Kathleen is she has a knack for helping staff identify where they are, before identifying where children and families are.” Another teacher wrote “Kathleen makes my life as a teacher easier. She makes me slow down and reflect on my practice which ultimately makes my teaching of higher quality. She is a wonderful resource to the Early Child Education community in southeast Alaska and I feel lucky to have her as a consultant in my classroom.”

## Early Head Start Teacher of the Year

### Katherine Merculief

Katherine is a top of the line Early Head Start Teacher. She has an inspiring success story that starts her as a Head Start parent. She started to volunteer in her little one's classroom and worked her way up to lead teacher in our nursery. Katherine truly cares for each child that is carried, crawls, toddles, walks, or even runs into her classroom! Watching and observing her interact with the children in her care, one can see that she works hard to form bonds and gain the trust of her students. Katherine is a wonderful artist and captures the work of her children beautifully. She is instrumental in the development of a new cultural curriculum that is currently being created. Katherine is a dedicated, hardworking, asset to our team and I believe she deserves the EHS Teacher of the Year award for all that she has done for our students, families, and staff here at Cook Inlet Native Head Start!



## Family Advocate of the Year

### Gertrude Heckman

Gertrude is a wonderful Family Advocate! She deserves this award ten times over. Gertrude is dedicated to her position and her families. She builds trusting relationships that allow our families to ask for help when needed and set goals for development of the family's progression. She supports our families in many ways. Gertrude not only supports our families, but the teachers of Cook Inlet Native Head Start as well. She has been able to uphold her responsibilities as a family advocate and assist teachers with filing, observations, classroom coverage, and even building of portfolios. Gertrude shows utmost kindness and compassion for everyone she crosses paths with and we are so fortunate to have her on our team. Of all candidates, please consider Gertrude as the Family Advocate of the Year.



## Corporate Award

### Southcentral Foundation

The Southcentral Foundation is being nominated for the Corporate Award based upon their collaboration with Cook Inlet Native Head Start (CINHS). The Southcentral Foundation (SCF) provides CINHS with \$612,784.00 in In-Kind donations. Their generous support in multiple areas provides CINHS with valuable resources that ensure our ability to meet the federal health standards set for Head Start.



First and foremost, Southcentral Foundation (an Alaska Native health organization) leases 18,377 SF of indoor space, and 20,348 SF of outdoor space to CINHS. This lease is rent free. This amounts to \$318,424.00 of In-Kind lease space.

Other services provided by the Southcentral Foundation include audiology hearing screening which includes pure tone screening, tympanometry, and otoacoustic emission screening. Audiology In-Kind services are valued at \$73,200.00. Dental Screening is also conducted by SCF, and this is valued at over \$50,000.00. SCF also provides tremendous support in Pediatrics which includes providing the center with a medical provider two days a week, a Pediatric Dietitian and a Pediatric Behavioral Health Consultant. Pediatrics donates \$151,160.00 in In-Kind services.

Additional services provided by SCF include: Health Education valued at \$5,000.00, and Network Transportation and Support (IT) valued at \$15,000.00.

Due to the overwhelming support by Southcentral Foundation, Cook Inlet Native Head Start is able to meet the Health and Safety guidelines set in federal regulation. It is due to their significant contributions that CINHS is able to provide a quality program to both children and parents. The Southcentral Foundation is our strongest and most reliable partner. SCF is the backbone of Cook Inlet Native Head Start. They empower us to do our most important work, caring for children and families. Southcentral Foundation deserves this award based upon their many years of full support of Cook Inlet Native Head Start.

### Marilynn Woods

Ms. Woods has served Cook Inlet Native Head Start staff and families for the past two years. Ms. Woods holds a B.S. in Elementary Education with a minor in Special Education, and a M.A. in Rural Development. Marilynn is responsible for providing culturally relevant mentorship to staff and students through the implementation of cultural activities that support the curriculum. Additionally, she designs cultural training for staff. Ms. Woods works closely with Family Services to successfully provide cultural foods, traditions, storytellers, and dancers to the monthly family nights.

Marilynn provides direct services to students and parents to develop and build strong families through culturally appropriate activities. She accomplishes this by working with the Curriculum Coordinator and Education Manager in designing and implementing Native language, art, crafts, storytelling and dancing activities into the weekly education program and monthly family nights. Additionally, Marilynn develops and implements opportunities to share traditional Alaska Native values with students and parents that strengthen family ties and model togetherness and responsibility in a fun and engaging manner.



Ms. Woods has accomplished bringing in many traditional activities that support the curriculum, and at the same time, teach to Alaska Native values. She has successfully bridged the western model of education with a traditional Alaska Native model. Some of the activities have included “Yaaguin” or Story knives with Yup’ik elder Marie Meade, kayak making with world famous kayak racer and maker, Maligiyaq. Two traditional kayaks (one Kotzebue Inupiaq style and one Unangax style) were made with the Head Start children. These kayaks are child sized, and are completely usable in the water. In fact, CINHS will be hosting a Family Night at the Pool, complete with water safety instruction, life jacket instructions, and instruction in traditional Native kayaking (entry, exit, roll, paddling, etc.) during the next year. Another one of Ms. Woods accomplishments was bringing in a group of Athabascan elders and youth to teach Tanana language, dance and culture for a week. This was significant due to the fact that many Athabascan children attend our school but rarely get the opportunity to participate in traditional activities. Both projects were hugely popular, and were used to teach standards from both the western and traditional Alaska Native models.

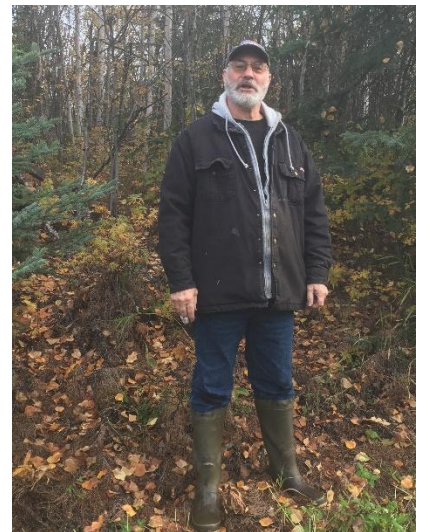
The mission of Cook Inlet Native Head Start, building strong foundations with Alaska Native families through Alaska Native cultures and values, is the driving force behind Marilynn’s great work. She works closely with the education staff in developing the activities appropriate for the curriculum and the specific cultural focus. Marilynn provides a valuable and essential service for our school. She has made a tremendous difference in our daily cultural programming at Cook Inlet Native Head Start. For these reasons, we believe that Marilynn Woods should be nominated for this award.

# Head Start Father of the Year

## Robert “Bob” Poechmann

Dear Evaluation Committee;

It is with great pleasure nominate Mr. Robert Poechman for consideration of Head Start Father of the Year Award. Robert Poechman who many of us call; “Bob”, is the most consistent volunteer of our FNA Head Start 0-5 program. He does not only volunteers in one center; he goes to two of our sites every week to spend quality time with the children and staff. During his visitations he participates indoor, outdoor play with joy while increases his knowledge about child development. His presence is such an important piece of our program, not only for his grandkids but for all the children, parents and staff who have contact with him. Parents? Yes, even some of our parents has witness the beautiful interactions between Bob and their children. Several of the children served don’t have contact with males or grandfathers but Bob makes sure all kids around him feels loved, it is incredible how he manages to be down at child level to interact with them, how he explains the way things work and how helpful he is facilitating transitions.



He started in our program as a Foster Parent for two wonderful children who has been experienced trauma. Robert used to bring the children every morning with a big smile, stayed for breakfast and story time. The children are no longer at his care but he makes sure he sees his grandkid’s every week. After hours and on the weekends he even takes the children fishing, for bike rides, gardening and other fun activities. Bob has become the most popular person among our precious children and staff. Robert is a gentleman, always willing to help others; he is the kind of person that everyone wants to have around because you can see how genuine his feelings are.

I strongly believe that Robert Poechman deserves the Head Start Father of the Year Award because after all a Father is not only the one who procreates, a Father is someone special that loves a child with all this heart and makes sure all their needs are met.

Sincerely; -Francisca

### Nomination #2

My reasons why I believe that Robert Poechman should get the FNA father of the year award are because he is a kind and gentle man. He has been taking care of two children that are enrolled in the FNA program for about 2-4 years since enrolling. He comes in the morning weather to eat with his kids or helping the teachers pass the breakfast or just asking about our days. He helps show the younger kids in the classroom a positive attitude from gentle hands, kind words and showing examples. He keeps his kids objective true to his heart. He tries to come in the morning each day at both locations from Fairbanks Native Association (McKinley & 609) and visit each child and spread his joy and positive attitude. On his free time he comes and volunteer with the FNA program, which is a great help and all the teachers truly appreciate. He lives in a different house in a different area in town, he tries to help out Mrs. Beverly (grandma) and the kids by taking them on a small road trip, or taking the kids on a weekend fishing trip and exploring and trying new things.

## Cook of the Year

### Stephanie Eggart

I would like to Nominate Stephanie Eggart for cook of the year. She has done an amazing job in her position. She is always keeping busy getting all of her work done. For a few months during the school year, she was working in the kitchen alone, doing her duties, as well as the assistant cook's duties, since we did not have one at the time. She did this without complaining and got all duties done in a timely manner. She also does shopping every Monday for all 11 Kawerak Head Start sites, as well as gets everything shipped out to them the same day on her own so they have it in time to serve the students' meals. This is done fairly quickly and Stephanie comes back to the building in time to do any unfinished duties in the kitchen before getting off work for the day. Stephanie is in charge of cooking breakfast, lunch, and snack for all of our Nome Head Start and Early Head Start students, as well as the staff daily (that's up to 75 people for each meal!). She follows all CACFP requirements so that she is serving healthy, nutritious meals. The students love Ms. Stephanie's cooking! Even though Stephanie is busy cooking, she still takes the times to say hello the children and get's to know them. Stephanie does all her work with a smile and no complaints. She deserves to be recognized for all her hard work!



# Home Visitor of the Year

## La Chang

In our agency, we have many talented people. Some new to KCI and some have been around for many years. I have worked with this individual since she started in our agency in 2006. I humbly nominate La Chang as EHS Home Visitor for all the amazing work she has done and continues to do over these past 10 years!

For our Early Head Start Program, we are here in Anchorage, AK and are actually a small program for the population that is here. We have 8 Center-Based children and La provides home based services for 8 children. La and I work collaboratively together and do many things together such as: hosting family nights, transferring children, maintaining a wait list, recruiting, monthly reports, etc.

La started at KCI as an Assistant Teacher in 2006, became a Teacher as she achieved her Preschool CDA, then Teacher/Family Advocate in our Combination program. While working full-time, she took night classes and achieved her Associates Degree in Early Childhood. She became an EHS Toddler Teacher in 2011. We had an opening for the EHS Home Visitor in 2014; La applied for the position and was accepted. It was an easy transition for La since she assisted the previous Home Visitor translating on multiple home visits in Hmong so she was aware of her job requirements. La continued the collaboration with local agencies such as Office of Children Services, Child in Transition Homelessness, Passage House Transitional Living Shelter, Anchorage School District Alternative High School Crossroads, Program for Infants and Children, and many more. She has always been a very involved and helpful individual.



La's caseload is often teen moms who are prenatal or are parenting and who are enrolled in high school completion/GED programs. La is very passionate about her work and her families. She is flexible in her scheduling to accommodate her family's needs. She does a lot of crisis intervention services, especially with homelessness and acquiring safe and stable housing. La helps the teen parents understand their pregnancy, maintain their doctor check-ups for both the mom and children, and the importance of the male figure in the children's lives. She is great at really emphasizing to the families that they are their child's first and most important teacher. We see more Hmong families applying for our Home-based program since La is bilingual in Hmong. We even had a couple Hmong children transition into our full-day Center-Based program from Home-Based with La which typically you do not see due to their family traditions and values. La imbeds culture into our program.

Each year we have hosted a Cultural Awareness Family Night where we have had different families volunteer to demonstrate about their culture either through cooking, showing their traditional regalia, or talking about their family values. La has held cooking classes too per parent and staff request on how to make egg rolls, spring rolls, Crab Rangoon, sweet and sour meatballs, healthy choices toddlers will enjoy, and more.

La hosts two Group Social events a month. This year La has worked with the center based program to get outside presenters to come to EHS to present on parent interest topics from professionals such as psychologist, librarian, and KCI coordinators. We always have a great turnout. I hear families talk frequently about the great experiences they have at these events; they often comment on the amazing food that La very much takes pride in organizing. La has come so far in her public speaking and continues to grow in that area as her experience, confidence and knowledge grows.

Currently of the 8 Center-Based children we enroll, La met 3 of the children at the hospital when they were born since she had been providing prenatal home based services. Another 3 families were also transferred from La's Home-Based program into the full-day care Center-based program. The families and children really enjoy still being able to work alongside La while receiving full-day care.

There is so much to La's position of Home Visitor. She meets weekly with her families, sometimes more. Her office is located next to the Crossroads School for parenting teens where most of her parents are enrolled. La completes health screenings, referrals, completes data entry, meets with school counselors about her teen mom's school progression, and is continuously screening for maternal depression while also monitoring the milestone progression of the children she serves. Through La's dedication and perseverance to make a difference for her families, she is truly what an EHS Home Visitor should embody.

Thank you for your consideration

## School District Collaboration

### Anchorage School District Crossroads

ASD's Crossroads program offers high school completion classes for prenatal or parenting teen moms. Our EHS program recruits at Crossroads each semester by going to their classrooms, introducing ourselves to the parenting teen students and telling them about our program options. Our EHS program gives teen parents attending Crossroads priority for enrollment because we know how much their families will benefit by participating in the collaborative services we provide together. We get many referrals from Crossroads because their staff knows the importance of our collaboration; we have seen what the teen moms can achieve when linked with the right agencies.



Crossroads is an amazing program. I attended there as a teen mother in the early 2000's. It is great that I am able to be that role model for the teen moms of today of what getting involved in your child's education in the head start process can do for your family and it's something the Crossroad staff talks with students about! Crossroads was formed in the 1970's as a response by the Anchorage School District to address the specific needs of pregnant high school students. All students follow the ASD requirements. Additionally, child development, which includes a parenting class, and maternity health courses are required for our students. They assist the teen mom in continuing and completing high school education without loss of credits or time. They help provide employ-ability skills, life planning skills, healthy life skills in the context of relationships, parenting, pregnancy, and adoption. They help the teen mom in any way they can to prepare you for a successful future and to gain skills needed to reach your goals. Finally, they aim to provide the teen mom with a safe, respectful, and trusting environment.

We love working with all the staff at Crossroads: the teachers, counselor, nurse and the principal. We serve on their advisory committees giving input and feedback that helped secure funding for a much needed onsite nurse last school year. The counselor and teachers are great about communicating with us EHS staff especially when it comes to the well-being of the teen mom and their child. With the Crossroad students' permission, we share information about the graduation status, classes our teen moms are taking and support services we are offering. We collaborate on making referrals to local agencies such as Child in Transition or Passage House Transitional Shelter. Their staff also serve on our EHS advisories giving input and even letting us host our meetings at their facility. We would always encourage our shared families to attend Crossroads events and they would then encourage all Crossroad students to be a part of our EHS opportunities.

With our programs united and located in the same building, we saw great things happen. Our shared families knew both programs expectations and would try to meet them. If they weren't meeting requirements such as grades or attendance we would problem-solve together to get through the challenges addressing the barriers and coming up with reasonable solutions. With us encouraging breastfeeding onsite at EHS, Crossroads allowed their teen moms who were in our Center-Based full-day care come down during their lunch breaks to bond and feed their child. If the teen mom was able to maintain our EHS Center-Based or Home-Based requirements, we saw them complete their goal of completing and receiving their high school diploma. We saw some teen moms complete their credits early, some complete on-time and some even repeat their senior year to get their diploma. We have many success stories of our EHS teen moms achieving their diploma while in our programs. Last year's nomination/winner for AHSA "Beating the Odds" was a Crossroad graduate and is a prime example of the benefit of our two program working together to service the EHS child and family.

Without your high school diploma, life can be a struggle to ever get out poverty or homelessness. Add in the teen parent factor and now success in life can seem unreachable for some who don't have needed supports. We offer all Crossroad students, even if they aren't enrolled with EHS, opportunities to volunteer at EHS to earn their required community engagement hours, parenting development hours and in some cases, school credit for graduation. This past year one teen mom would not have met graduation requirements without the hours she earned working and volunteering at EHS.

I have been to about a dozen of my teen parent's graduations over my time here at KCI EHS. The most special and memorable ones have been the Crossroad Graduations. You don't see large numbers graduating, due to statistically teen moms don't finish high school on-time for many factors. It's such a small and personal graduation, so meaning full to the Crossroads staff and EHS staff since we persevere through many obstacles with the teen mom and child to make it to that one special day. With pleasure I proudly nominate ASD Crossroads for our School District Collaboration because if we weren't able to work together the way we do, many people lives wouldn't be what they are today.

Thank you for your consideration.

## Head Start Director of the Year

### Gina Pruce

There are not enough words to describe why Gina Pruce is an amazing director. Gina deeply cares for staff and families and will do whatever it takes to make the program run smoothly and help anyone who crosses her path. I have seen Gina spend countless hours helping in all areas of the program needed as well as time spent training and assisting staff on various levels. I will never forget when I was going through a particularly rough time in my life. Gina gave me the support I needed to get back on my feet and back to work. Gina has allowed me to go to weekly appointments and has even offered to help with work if I need it. Gina encourages all staff to do their best and always has an optimistic outlook on the program and staff. Gina always has a positive attitude and considers the opinions of all staff before making any major decisions. I am very thankful to learn from a leader like her.



#### **Nomination #2:**

Gina has only been Director for a short while, however her dedication and commitment to our Program is outstanding. In addition, her commitment to staff members is extraordinary and a blessing to all. She is always doing her best to assist staff and understands the challenges that Teachers face in the classroom. She is a friend to all staff and always there to lend an ear when needed. What a blessing it is to know your friend is working beside you and there to support you when you need an uplifting word or hug. Thank you Ms. Gina for being you!

## Beating the Odds

### Shoemaker Family

We are proud to nominate the “Shoemaker Family” for the Beating the Odds Award. Jon and Jen Shoemaker have five beautiful children, Levi, Lyla, Linzi, Luke, and Logan.

Levi, the Shoemakers oldest son, was the first of the Shoemaker children to attend Sterling Head Start. He attended for one year, and then Lyla, the Shoemaker’s oldest daughter, attended Sterling Head Start in 2012-2013 for one year. Linzi is the third born child in the Shoemaker family preceding Luke who was born in March of 2013. Logan the youngest of the Shoemakers was born June of 2015.

Linzi turned 2 on June 6th, 2013 and on June 22nd, 2013 she was diagnosed with Stage 4 high risk Neuroblastoma. Linzi completed 6 cycles of chemotherapy, surgery to remove the mass, received an autologous bone marrow transplant, radiation, and completed 6 cycles of immunotherapy.



During Linzi’s treatment, the family took leave from their jobs, and sold the family home. They home schooled Levi and Lyla and they did whatever they could do to be available to ensure that their daughter Linzi was getting the best possible medical care. Luke’s first year of life was spent in and out of hospitals locally and in Portland, Oregon. They lived for an extended time, in a hotel room, at the Ronald McDonald House in Portland. Following the year of treatment, the family returned to Sterling and moved in to Jen’s parents’ home for a few months and then found a rental close to Sterling Elementary School. Jon and Jen got their jobs back with the company and agency they were previously employed with.

Linzi has been participating in physical therapy for about a year and a half now to strengthen several of her muscle groups that were weakened from the chemotherapy. She currently works on her core and balance. Her physical therapist told mom that Linzi was initially very afraid of the zip line as a part of her therapy. After a year and a half, she now has mastered her fears with the zip line and rode it 20 times during her last session.

When Linzi was declared cancer free on March 29, 2014, her brother Levi (7 years old) so excitedly proclaimed to his mother Jen, “God has answered our prayers!” When Linzi learned to talk at around age 3 she would often tell anyone who would listen that God healed her from cancer!

Their family was featured on a local television program for a positive cancer story and they were able to be that story (Their heart goes out to those that have not had successful stories with cancer).

While the Head Start staff were on a home visit for Linzi, Jen was pregnant and told us that she asked God if you are going to take Linzi then give me a girl and they were blessed with a boy (Logan) who was born June 20, 2015. Jon and Jen recently purchased property in Sterling and will begin building a home for their family beginning this summer.

We always enjoy the Shoemaker family when they come into Sterling Head Start to share a meal with us or volunteer in our classroom. Jen comes in and takes blood pressure for our Head Start kiddos and shares with them about her nursing job. Jon and Jen attend all the special celebrations, and many of the parent meetings, and parent experiences. While Linzi will be going to kindergarten this fall, Luke will be age eligible for Head Start in the fall. Linzi continues to beat the odds. Her particular type of cancer has a 50% re-occurrence rate and there is no treatment for relapsed Neuroblastoma. All of Linzi’s scans (done every 6 months) continue to be clear and at the 5 year mark she will be considered in remission. The Shoemakers attribute their faith in God for the strength to endure challenging times and they are thankful for each new monumental milestone Linzi achieves in her development. The Shoemaker family as a whole exude energy, happiness, and life. They live with gratitude and eyes wide open. It is not uncommon to find the family at a concert for Levi, or a dance recital for Lyla, a birthday party for one of Linzi’s friends, or a play date for Luke. The family is actively and cheerfully involved in the community and in the lives of their children. They live a life that inspires, builds faith, and encourages us all to believe we too can get through hard things - that we too can beat the odds of life’s challenging circumstances.



## 2015-16 All AHSA Award Nominations

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Anchorage School District                  | Lila Mishra                      |
| Ann Brantmeier                             | Liz Harshman                     |
| April Madison                              | Lori Scott                       |
| Barb Harberts                              | Louise Martin                    |
| Barbara Peter                              | Maddy Alvanna-Stimpfle           |
| Bering Straits School District- Anthony A. | Marcy Belisle-McGraw             |
| Andrews School                             | Martha Wagele                    |
| Brittany Maiorana and May DeCastro         | Mary Dau                         |
| Brittany Sisson                            | Mike Stephenson                  |
| Darling Anderson                           | Natasha Gilila                   |
| Doug Walrath                               | Nikki Yochum                     |
| Emelina Haring-Furment                     | Providence Alaska Medical Center |
| Ginger Ameigh                              | Rita Alexie                      |
| Heather Plumb                              | Sandra Roddy                     |
| Jessica Loaiza                             | Sarah Stout                      |
| John Gucker                                | Serena Outhier                   |
| Juneau School District                     | Sherry Selby                     |
| Kattie Lee                                 | Tasha Weiers                     |
| Kayleen Hetrick                            | Thong Lor                        |
| Kayse Hinrichsen                           | Tiffany Deason                   |
| Kymalee Gresh                              | Torri Carlson                    |

