

2019 Classified Employee of the Year:

Robin Hendrickson: Take a bow

Walk in the library at Franklin Elementary School in Pullman and a definite theme emerges. For fans of Harry Potter, it's like entering Hogwarts heaven.

Hogwarts and Ravenclaw banners hang from the ceiling. A few feet away is a "Reading is Magic" banner touting the first book in the Potter series, the *Sorcerer's Stone*.

Yes, it's all part of the plan to get kids excited about reading. The architect of the plan is Robin Hendrickson, Franklin's library para-support educator.

To say Hendrickson has been successful would be an understatement. In fact, her impact on the school has been so significant that Principal Stephanie Bray felt special recognition – beyond the school, beyond the district and beyond Whitman County – was in order.

Last fall, when nominations were opened for regional Classified Employee of the Year, Bray was confident Hendrickson would be a strong contender, even in a field matching the best of the best in seven counties.

Bray was right. Six months later, Hendrickson has been crowned the 2019 regional winner, an award that puts her in the running for statewide honors later this spring.

Hendrickson's success in the library comes as no surprise to those who know her. Words, language and books practically define her. They are her passion; a passion she loves to share with young readers.

Her devotion to books and learning dates to her own K-12 schooling in Wenatchee. From there, it was off to William Woods University in Missouri, where one of her undergraduate majors was English Literature. Following graduation, she was a professional writer and magazine editor for 20 years.

Between those experiences, her knowledge of and appreciation for literature is practically contagious. "Franklin would not be the same place without her," says Bray.

One example of Hendrickson's creativity is her "How a book is made" project designed to build library skills and knowledge. Over the course of nine lessons, students meet with authors; review genres, learn the role of writers, editors, illustrators, publishers and distributors; review the elements of a good book cover; and even learn the essential components of library labeling and shelving.



Under the tutelage of Robin Hendrickson, reading is indeed magic at Pullman's Franklin Elementary School

At the conclusion of the project, students create and display their own cover illustrations.

It's all done in a warm and inviting space tailored to specific student interests, says Bray. "She puts students first and prioritizes the library, its environment and materials based on what is needed for the success of all students."

All in all, Franklin colleagues call her one of the most versatile and dedicated people on the staff. And if you need an expert to settle an argument over Harry Potter, just consider that an added bonus of friendship.

Ferris' Darci Hastings honored

Congratulations to Ferris High School's Darci Hastings. The veteran Spokane educator is the state's newly minted Science Teacher of the Year. In two decades of teaching, Hastings has distinguished herself for high standards and strong relationships with students that cultivate love of learning. Well done, Darci.

Good questions

To ask ourselves. And of one another

Undoubtedly, many are aware of three implicit questions that Lou Holtz, former football coach – retired now and in the College Football Hall of Fame – said every player has about a coach, and that every coach has about his or her players.

In the midst of current realities as a nation *and* in the enterprise of education – nationally, statewide and locally – now might be an opportune time to consider each of them.

Can I trust you?

In both good times and those more challenging, what matters most are the *relationships* we have with one another. *Genuine* relationships built on *trust*, day in and day out, that are forged on a foundation of giving the best of ourselves *to* and *for* one another. Mutuality.

Though we may have different roles, perspectives, or perhaps find ourselves on different sides of particular issues, we should have the backs of each other – importantly of our students and their families, but *also* of our colleagues – even those whose roles and responsibilities may be different than our own. On any team, whether *coach* or *player*, is it not about each other and the *us*, together, rather than about the individual?

Are you committed?

The question is at once simple *and* complex. Assuredly, commitment means having high expectations, working hard, doing one's best. Yet not for ourselves, but doing so *for* those we serve, and jointly with those *with* whom we serve.

It can be all too easily seen and felt when anyone is engaged more for themselves or for just a few, than when their commitment is indeed to something larger, and greater...when their commitment is to the *whole*.

And when this is the case both when times are

easy and positive, *and* when they are not. As I once heard football legend John Brodie say, "it is oftentimes when things are *not* going well that you can truly see the best in people."

Do you care about me?

As in, do we care about others for *who* they are, not merely *what* they are? The kids in our districts, schools and programs are more than students and learners. The adults are more than their job roles. We are each uniquely human, with our own hopes, dreams, abilities, joys and frustrations.

To achieve real and enduring "success," requires that we truly come to *know* and *care* about one another as *individuals*. It requires that we respect whatever differences – in role, background, perspective – that might exist and sincerely treat one another with abiding respect. That we strive for the "*win-wins*," rather than someone wins while others don't.

If those we serve or those with whom or for whom we work asked these good questions about any of us, what would *their* answers be? Whatever our perspective as a citizen or employee, whatever our role in our respective organizations, do others perceive us as in it for ourselves, or that we strive for one another and a greater good?

There are *some* people, *some* forces, and *some* external pressures that would prefer to sow seeds of deeper division. It seems to me that when we keep these three questions front of mind – for ourselves *and* each other – common ground is more easily found and ultimate success more likely achieved. That we unite through the *best* of who we are and should always want to be.



Michael Dunn, Superintendent

Stay in touch: While this edition of *Focus* is the last of the school year, we invite you to stay in touch with us online throughout the summer. All of NEWESD 101's online platforms will be continually updated with news and summer course offerings. Web: www.esd101.net; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/newesd101/>; Twitter: <https://twitter.com/newesdnews>; LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/15205998/admin/>.

focus

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Crafting privilege

It's a Thursday lunch hour at NEWESD 101. Traveling from districts as near as Spokane to as far as Ferry County, nearly a dozen administrators and special education directors gather at the Talbott Event Center.

Entering the Bi-County Room, they approach a buffet of string, scissors and a vibrant assortment of beads. To an outside observer, this may look like an afternoon jewelry-making class; in actuality, it's an introductory exploration into the concept of privilege.

Prior to the monthly special education directors meetings, this smaller group – led by NEWESD 101's Center for Special Education Services department – participates in a book study of "Blind Spot: Hidden Biases of Good People."

The book is a New York Times bestseller by Mahzarin R. Banjali and Anthony G. Greenwald examining the ways people consciously and more often subconsciously prejudge the character, abilities and potential of others. To compliment a chapter discussion on mindfulness, the group engages in a "Beads of Privilege" exercise.

A list of five statements lay beside eight separate bowls of beads. Participants take a bead for every statement personally applicable to them and attach the beads to a string. Each statement represents a particular privilege symbolic of nationality, class, ability, gender, race, etc.

Sample statements: If people typically assume that you can speak English proficiently, take a blue bead. If you've taken a vacation outside the country within the past few years, take a green bead.

Take another green bead if you've never been evicted or homeless.

At the end of the exercise, all participants hold a colorful bracelet unique to their personal experiences and privilege. The activity encourages educators to achieve a greater awareness of their own privileges and, at the same time, empathy for others – in many instances, students – who don't share the same privileges.

Ultimately, says Dr. Brenda J. Allen, professor and author of the acclaimed book, "Difference Matters: Communicating Social Identity," the exercise helps educators recognize the way they can use their privileges individually and collectively to work for equity and social justice. For more information on the privilege bead activity, please visit the Teaching Materials section of Dr. Allen's website, www.differencematters.info. --Tracy Poindexter-Canton



Meet new superintendents

The NEWESD 101 region welcomes three new superintendents for the 2019-20 school year. They are, from left, Brett Baum, Liberty. Shawn Woodward, Mead; and Kevin Young, Republic.

Welcome aboard, gentlemen.



Brett Baum



Shawn Woodward



Kevin Young

NEWASA honors community stalwarts

Every spring, the Northeast Washington Association of School Administrators honors individuals and organizations whose contributions of time and resources enrich the education of regional students.

This year, NEWASA extended its highest honors to four

organizations and one individual who have championed the cause of public education. The region thanks the Empire Health Foundation; Kaiser Permanente; Providence Health Foundation; Hagan Foundation; and Amy Bragdon, adviser to the Hagan Foundation, for their unflagging support of education.



Roger Bragdon, Hagan Foundation Board, and Amy Bragdon, Hagan Foundation adviser.



Sara Clements-Sampson, Providence Health Foundation and Kelly Sanford and Michelle Kirksey from Kaiser Permanente.

Aaron Miles

Where did you meet your spouse? If you turn that into a “Can you top this” question, Aaron Miles always wins for the most creative and unlikely place. It was on the field of competition or, more accurately, the court of competition.

Miles and his wife Lyndi met on a basketball court in Bozeman, MT where both were enrolled at Montana State University.

Lyndi, a former basketball star at Lewis and Clark High School in Spokane, was a scholarship player and starter on the Montana State women’s basketball team. Aaron, a 6-foot-4 former high school player, was part of a men’s team recruited to periodically scrimmage the women’s squad.

A first date followed but not to dinner or a movie. These two were competitive. They played tennis. Between the two venues, Aaron says he committed no flagrant fouls or double faults. The pair hit it off and married in 2012.

Following graduation, a career start in Montana and post-

graduate studies at Linfield College in Oregon, the expanded Miles family, now including daughter Tayla, is back in Lyndi’s hometown. In February, Aaron joined NEWESD 101 as a staff accountant.

It’s a great job for someone who loves budgets as much as basketball. Why? They both involve statistics, analysis and attention to detail. Whether calculating fringe benefit costs or field goal percentages, you gotta love the numbers, he says.

But back to the beginning. Who won those early contests on the basketball and tennis courts? It’s a state secret, Aaron says. He will never tell.



Aaron Miles

Two receive state art awards

Congratulations to Mackenzie Weiland and Grace Thompson. The two students at Mt. Spokane High School received awards at the 2019 state High School Art Show in Olympia.

Weiland received the OSPI staff award for her piece, “Hiding in the Garden.” Thompson earned honorable mention honors for her entry, “Gus.” Both qualified for the state competition after earning first-place awards in NEWESD 101’s regional competition held in March. To see a gallery of all winning entries in the NEWESD 101 regional show, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2VHnBYb>



From left, Mackenzie Weiland’s “Hiding in the Garden” and “Gus” by Grace Thompson

Grants offered in arts

Funding for local art projects is available through the Spokane Arts Grant Awards (SAGA). Individuals and organizations (including schools) may apply for awards up to \$10,000.

Applications are accepted three times per year, on February 1, June 1 and October 1. Multiple awards are made every round. For application guidelines and more information, visit www.spokanearts.org/grants.

Changes coming to course registration, clock hours

In July, NEWESD 101 will migrate course registration and clock hours data from GoSignMeUp (GSMU) software to pdEnroller.

What does this mean for you?

It means no worries. If you already have a course registration/clock hours account through GSMU, it is not necessary to set up a new one with pdEnroller. Your data from September 1, 2017 will be automatically transferred to the new system. You only need to create a new password the first time you login.

Please DO NOT SET UP A NEW ACCOUNT... If you cannot find your account, please contact Mary Kempel at (509) 456-2715 or mkempel@esd101.net.

What can you do to prepare?

Login to your current account at <https://registration.esd101.net/Public/Course/Browse> before July 1 to make sure your existing information is correct.

Feedback from existing users of pdEnroller is highly positive. Users report the software is easy to navigate and track data.

Any additional updates will be posted on the NEWESD 101 website – www.esd101.net – before the conversion.

