



For Immediate Release

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North Ed, Traverse Connect, TBA Credit Union Announce 2023 Outstanding Educators

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. – Ten educators identified by their colleagues and communities as going above and beyond to serve students and their schools are being recognized as 2023's Outstanding Educator Award recipients.

Through a partnership between Northwest Education Services (North Ed), Traverse Connect and TBA Credit Union, the Outstanding Educator Awards recognize school employees in northwest Michigan who have made exemplary contributions to the academic success of students, educational collaboration and professional development.

Listed in alphabetical order, this year's outstanding educators are:

- Susan Broad – Teacher Assistant, North Ed Life Skills Center
- Marshall Collins – Regional Health & DEIB Coordinator, North Ed
- Holly Decker – School Social Worker, TCAPS Traverse City High School
- Mary Hall – K-12 Art Teacher, Suttons Bay Public Schools
- Will Jurkiewicz – English & Psychology Teacher, GTACS St. Francis High School
- Sarah Olree – Department Chair, North Ed Life Skills Center/Transition Campus
- Megan Olsen – Library Media Parapro, TCAPS Traverse City West Senior High School
- Julie Puckett – Math Teacher, TCAPS Traverse City Central High School
- Dan Rosenburg – Social Studies Teacher, TCAPS Traverse City West Senior High School
- Heidi Sleder – ELA Teacher, Elk Rapids Cherryland Middle School

“Teachers and those who support our schools have the ability to make a significant difference in a young person’s life, and each year we celebrate individuals who have gone above and beyond in their commitment to education,” said Dr. Nick Ceglarek, superintendent of North Ed. “There are hundreds of examples of educators in our region who have positively impacted their students and school communities, which makes selecting just 10 people to receive the Outstanding Educator Award an incredibly challenging task. This year, each of the recipients has distinguished themselves among their peers through exemplary service, dedication and compassion, and each is truly deserving of this great award.”

Established by the then Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce in 1984, the Outstanding Educator Award program is facilitated by North Ed in collaboration with TBA Credit Union and Traverse Connect. Each year, nominations are submitted by public, private and parochial school administrators, colleagues, students, parents and community members throughout the five counties of Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau. Nomination materials are reviewed by a selection committee representative of school and community leaders and scored based on points awarded for demonstrated educational excellence.

This year's outstanding educators will be recognized at an awards ceremony that will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 7 at the City Opera House in Traverse City. The event is open to the public.

For more on the Outstanding Educator Award program and to view past recipients, visit North Ed's [website](#).

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