



For Immediate Release

May 21, 2024

Media Contact:

Ryan Jarvi
Director of Communication
Northwest Education Services
231.922.6242 | rjarvi@NorthwestEd.org

Neddo Earns Spirit of Excellence Award for Career Supporting English Learners, Multilingual Students

North Ed Staffer Recognized by Statewide Association

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. – For years, Deb Neddo has been a devoted advocate for migratory students and English Learners, and her efforts have now been recognized by the Michigan Association for Bilingual Education (MABE).

Neddo was named the 2024 recipient of MABE’s Spirit of Excellence Award. In addition to serving the region as the coordinator of Migrant/English Learners (EL) at Northwest Education Services (North Ed), Neddo is also a consultant to school districts across northern Michigan and is known statewide for her leadership on services for migratory students and English learners.

MABE’s annual Spirit of Excellence award recognizes distinguished individuals who have had a major impact in the field of bilingual education and/or teaching of English as a second language (ESL) in the state of Michigan.

Neddo was honored with the award at MABE’s annual conference May 9-10 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. She is just one of a few to have been named a recipient of the award, which was established in 2021 and renamed the following year as The Dr. Mazin Heiderson Spirit of Excellence Award, in recognition of the longtime educator.

“Deb is a passionate advocate for EL and migrant students and has worked tirelessly on their behalf to improve our systems in education that support them,” said Matt Olson, North Ed’s assistant superintendent of Professional Learning and Innovation. “Through the strong relationships she’s built with colleagues, Deb’s leadership has contributed to a robust system of support for our region and beyond, and she is an invaluable partner and advocate for students.”

Serving more than 300 students and families across northwest Michigan, Neddo leads a team of teachers, parent liaisons and recruiters to facilitate migratory student and EL educational programming. Her team facilitates a six-week summer program for students in preschool through high school, and supports local school districts and other intermediate school districts with serving their English Learners.

“Deb embodies everything we want to see in our educators. We could not have selected a more deserving recipient,” MABE Vice President Andrew Rodgers said in a press release.

More information about North Ed's [migratory student services](#) and [EL program](#) is available on North Ed's website.

More information about MABE can be found [online](#).

###

The Michigan Association for Bilingual Education (MABE) is a nonprofit organization that has been formed to encourage and promote multilingual education in the State of Michigan so that all children may participate in expanded education opportunities. The Michigan Association for Bilingual Education will enhance the success of Multilingual Education by diligent study and research.

Photo below:



Deb Neddo, right, coordinator of Migrant/English Learners (EL) programs at Northwest Education Services (North Ed), was named the 2024 recipient of The Dr. Mazin Heiderson Spirit of Excellence Award from the Michigan Association for Bilingual Education (MABE). Neddo was presented the award by MABE President Erica Hilliker at MABE's annual conference May 9-10 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. (Photo courtesy of MABE)