



For Immediate Release

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Announcing the 2021 Outstanding Educators of Northwest Michigan

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. – Northwest Education Services (*formerly Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District*), Traverse Connect, and TBA Credit Union proudly announce the 2021 Outstanding Educator Award recipients. Established in 1984 by the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce, this regional Outstanding Educator Award program honors select individuals who exhibit unique characteristics that represent the quintessential outstanding educator through leadership, excellence in a school setting, evidence of student success, community engagement, and professional learning. Each year, nominations are submitted by public, private and parochial school administrators, colleagues, students, parents and community members of northwest Michigan.

Presenting the 2021 honorees in alphabetical order:

Jessie Houghton – TCAPS Central High School Principal
Kathy Larkin – Alba Public School 6th/7th Grade Teacher
Nancy Martin – GTACS St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Middle School Teacher
Eric Ranke – TCAPS West Senior High School Spanish Teacher
Terrie Rawlings – Forest Area Community Schools Middle School Teacher
Becky Westphal – Northwest Education Services Special Education Teacher
Megan Zell – Northwest Education Services Assistive Technology Consultant

Nominations were submitted in May and reviewed by a selection committee representative of school and community leaders and scored based on points awarded for demonstrated educational excellence. The 2021 Outstanding Educator Award recipients listed above have made exemplary contributions to the academic success of students, educational collaboration, and professional learning that exemplifies the best of the best in the field of education in northwest Michigan.

In lieu of an in-person region-wide celebration this year, each awardee was recently honored by school leadership at their individual school worksites and official award presentations will be conducted by Northwest Education Services Superintendent Dr. Nick Ceglarek during the monthly board meeting at each local district in which the honoree serves.

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