

2024 NWESD Classified Employee of the Year Brenda Flett, Paraeducator at Post Middle School in Arlington Public School District

The Northwest Educational Service District 189 (NWESD) has selected Paraeducator Brenda Flett as 2024 Regional Classified Employee of the Year (CEOY).



The NWESD is proud to announce that Brenda Flett has been recognized for her exceptional dedication and selfless service. Peers have nominated Brenda for her unwavering commitment, going above and beyond to prioritize the needs of her students without hesitation.

Both colleagues and students note that Brenda consistently demonstrates a remarkable ability to put students' needs first, ensuring a supportive and nurturing environment where they can thrive. Brenda's dedication extends beyond the classroom as she actively monitors student progress, provides invaluable assistance, and adeptly adapts to the ever-changing demands of middle school life.

What truly sets Brenda apart is her genuine investment in the well-being and growth of her students. She takes the time to establish meaningful relationships and recognizes unique needs and challenges. Her efforts are evident as she works tirelessly to help every student fulfill their potential and overcome obstacles.

One colleague stated, "Brenda's consistency, patience, care, and engagement in supporting every student from bell to bell every single day are truly remarkable." Brenda's instrumental role in managing larger classes, ensuring student focus, and facilitating academic development has made a significant impact on the learning experience of all students. Additionally, her linguistic skills have been invaluable in supporting Spanish-speaking students by providing translation assistance.

One teacher compared her impact to that of a legendary athlete joining a team, stating, "Imagine you were a coach introducing a sport to athletes who have never participated before, and then suddenly Michael Jordan joins your team. Brenda has transcended the paraeducator position, redefining our preconceptions about human limitations. She has raised the bar for everyone in the most humble and loving way."

When asked about her approach, Brenda shared, "Our goal is not to cram facts into minds but to mold healthy, capable people. Remembering that school is only one part of kids' lives is crucial for me." Her profound understanding of the holistic development of students underscores her passion for nurturing well-rounded individuals.

"While Brenda has done great things for Arlington Public Schools this recognition is representative of all of the hard-working classified staff across our region including bus drivers, food service workers, custodians, paraeducators, and all other classified school staff," said David Forsythe, Assistant Superintendent of Operations NWESD and head of the Employee Awards Committee task force at the NWESD.

"Post Middle School is so lucky to have Brenda serving our school community. Her patience and calmness allow her to help so many students navigate the challenges at school. Her life experience and dual language skills have allowed her to connect and support so many students. She has a servant heart and we could not be more excited to honor and celebrate her with this award." Leslie Olson, Post Middle School Principal

Brenda Flett's remarkable contributions to the education community make her an exceptional recipient of this recognition. The NWESD commends Brenda for her unwavering dedication, compassion, and invaluable support to students. Her commitment to empowering and inspiring young minds exemplifies the true spirit of educational excellence.

The Classified School Employee of the Year program recognizes excellence in the work of public school employees, including paraprofessionals, secretaries, custodians, food service workers, and others. Anyone may nominate a classified public school employee for this award, which is overseen by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). All completed nominations are sent to the regional coordinator at each Educational Service District (ESD); the regional winner is selected by committee. Flett is one of nine regional winners who will go on to compete for the State Classified School Employee of the Year award.

After advancing on to the statewide competition, regional finalists will be recognized by OSPI at an annual award ceremony in Olympia (date TBD), where OSPI will announce their selection of the State Classified School Employee of the Year. For more information on these awards, contact OSPI Recognition Coordinator, Hilary Seidel, at 360-725-6117.

About the NWESD

Located in Anacortes, the NWESD is one of nine Educational Service Districts in Washington State. The NWESD serves school districts, tribal compact schools, public charter schools, private schools, and early learning partners in Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Island, and San Juan counties, providing leadership and cooperative services to the educational communities in the northwest region.

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