



News release
October 3, 2023

Two of six Art Educators of the Year are from Everett Public Schools

Andrea Aguilera, Elementary and Tami Coffman, Supervision & Administration



Left to right: Tami Coffman and Andrea Aguilera

Everett, WA—The Washington Art Education Association (WAEA) announced their 2023 Art Educator of the Year award winners, with two of the six educators from Everett Public Schools (EPS). Andrea Aguilera, art teacher at Jefferson Elementary was named Elementary Art Educator of the Year and Tami Coffman, visual and performing arts facilitator P-12, was named Supervision and Administration Art Educator of the Year. These prestigious awards recognize outstanding dedication, professionalism, innovation, service, advocacy and excellence in the field of art education.

Aguilera's unwavering commitment to her students and community is truly commendable. Her dedication to working with EPS in implementing a new art curriculum, offering guidance to fellow teachers and her collaborative efforts in organizing school wide art exhibitions underscore her tireless commitment to enhancing the educational experience at Jefferson Elementary.

Cathy Woods, regional superintendent, says "Any time I see Ms. Aguilera, in her classroom or in the community, she is inspiring and joyful." And Mari Atkinson, past co-president of WAEA said, "Andrea exemplifies leadership, passion and joy in her teaching, as she clearly stands out above her peers. She actively seeks out opportunities to participate and advocate for visual art by widely sharing her students' artwork."

As an independent, self-driven, yet collaborative educator, Tami Coffman has made it her mission to ensure art is accessible to every student, from P-12. Her proactive approach in successfully launching new projects and consistently exceeding expectations is truly commendable.

Becky Broyles, WAEA awards chair and co-president stated, "Tami's greatest strength lies in her passionate advocacy for both art and education, and her exceptional ability to share that passion with students and teachers, making art an exciting and creative opportunity for all. She stands as a beacon of leadership, contributing significantly to the holistic development of every child, fostering expression and nurturing artistic talent."

Andrea and Tami will be honored at the awards ceremony during the WAEA Fall Conference on October 21 at noon at Cascade High School in Everett. They will also be recognized at the November 28 school board meeting.

In receiving these awards, recipients also become eligible for future nomination for regional and national recognition with the National Art Education Association.

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For more information:

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