

## Newsroom

### State Superintendent honors classified staff

13 people from across the state receive award

**OLYMPIA - May 15, 2009** — Thirteen school employees from across the state were recognized by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy I. Dorn at an awards ceremony today in the Washington State Senate chambers. The [Classified Employee Excellence Awards](#) recognizes classified staff members who have made a positive difference in their profession and in their schools. A selection committee of school administrators, parents, classified staff and education association representatives selected recipients based on four criteria:

1. Demonstration of outstanding work performance.
2. Evidence of how the candidate supports students and colleagues.
3. Description of the candidate's role in a special project or assignment.
4. Other unique qualities or circumstances.

The awards were proposed by State Superintendent Dorn during his tenure as the executive director of the Public School Employees of Washington, a union representing classified employees, and were approved by the 2007 Legislature.

"We are honored to have so many talented and innovative individuals as a part of our education team here in Washington," Dorn said. "Classified staff members are essential to the success of our schools, and these thirteen individuals stand out. They are examples of dedication, creativity and teamwork, and I am humbled by their enormous contributions."

Classified employees in Washington state number more than 78,000. They include "paraeducators" — classroom and computer assistants, tutors, translators and others who support teachers — as well as security officers, custodians, secretaries, cooks, bus drivers and other individuals in positions that don't require academic certification.

The [Classified Employees Excellence Award](#) is administered by the State Superintendent's Office in collaboration with Public School Employees of Washington, PEMCO Insurance and School Employees Credit Union of Washington who sponsor a banquet following the ceremony.

#### **Classified Employees Excellence Award winners**

**Julia Barber,**  
Physical Therapy Assistant  
Larchmont Elementary School,  
Tacoma School District

**Kathryn Baselt,**  
Educational Assistant  
Mullenix Ridge Elementary School,  
South Kitsap School District

**Wesley Benefiel,**  
School Bus Driver  
District Transportation,  
Tumwater School District

**Susan Brown,**  
Elementary Librarian  
Virginia Grainger Elementary School,  
Okanogan School District

**Paula DeLucia,**  
Educational Assistant  
Issaquah Valley Elementary School,  
Issaquah School District

**Beth Fillion,** High School Head Secretary

Camas High School,  
Camas School District

**Linda Holtorf,**  
Student Systems  
Coordinator

**Newel Rice,**  
Information Systems  
Manager  
District Office, Everett  
Public Schools

**Jennifer McMillan,**  
Family Services  
Coordinator  
Fruit Valley  
Community Learning  
Center, Vancouver  
Public Schools

**Linda McQuade,**  
Secretary to Director  
of Assessment  
District Office,  
Peninsula School  
District

**Susan Meeks,**  
Educational Assistant  
Liberty High School,  
Issaquah School  
District

**Kathy Meyer,** KITE  
Special Education  
Paraprofessional  
Woodland Elementary  
School, Puyallup  
School District

**Barbara Williams,**  
At-Risk Student  
Advocate  
Mountain View High  
School, Evergreen  
Public Schools



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