



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Health and Social Services

Governor's Council on Disabilities
& Special Education

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2016 Inclusive Practice Award

[The Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education](#) established the [Inclusive Practice Award](#) to recognize outstanding educators who work to ensure students with disabilities have the opportunity for an inclusive education with their peers as part of the general education curriculum. Nominations are made by parents, students, and educators. The award is given each February at the [Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference \(ASSEC\)](#). This year's award was presented Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at a luncheon at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage. It was attended by more than 200 special educators, administrators, parents, and advocates from all over the state.

The 2016 winner of the Inclusive Practice Award is the [Nikiski Middle/High School Life Skills Team](#).

This dynamic team at the [Nikiski Middle/High School](#), includes **Meghan Fowler** (life skills teacher) and her team of paraprofessionals; **Callesta Satter, Angela Smith, Kristin Peek, Kristina Stadelman, and Jen O'Brien**. This team recognizes the potential of all their students and places a student's dignity and right to self-determination at the core of their work. Many of their students are very challenging because of their disability and behaviors, and this team has been relentless in transforming this program into a stellar example of inclusive education. Because of this team's commitment and support, their students are integrated with the typically-developing middle and high school students at Nikiski Middle-High School.

The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education would like to commend the other **2016 Inclusive Practice Award nominees:**

- **Chugiak Head Start Program**, CCS Early Learning, Chugiak
Bonnie Monson, principal, and staff
- **Eagle Academy Charter School**, Eagle River
Kathryn Logan, principal, and staff
- **Career and Work Readiness Program / Martin Luther King, Jr. Career Center**, Anchorage
Lou Pondolfino, principal, and staff
- **Lake Hood SBBS Team**, Lake Hood Elementary, Anchorage
Michael Thomas, principal and Shannon Basner, Michelle Ming, Trudy McMullen, Laurel Andrews, and teachers' assistants
- **Allison Little, Art teacher**, Wasilla High School, Wasilla
- **Northwood ABC Elementary School**, Anchorage
Val Boyce, Karen Gordon, Dana Cain, Nicki Sullivan, Shasta Szewczyk, Cody Wood, Robyn Mayfield, Kate Hamre, Megan Rowland, Richard Adams, April DuClos, Billy Veasy, Jennifer Fitzsimmons, Mr. Saltzman, Ms.

Fleming, Michelle Greer, Isabel White, Michelle Oleske, Jenny Segers, Alicia Swiercz, Angel Duncan, Julie Gottfried, Teja Dozark, Jeri Brown, Elisabeth McClary, Mary Mayer, Olena Kyselova, and Julie Gregory

- **Julie Plummer, Special Education Teacher**, Adak School, Adak
- **Lucas Saltzman, Principal** and **Storme Fleming, Inclusion Specialist**, Aquarian Charter School, Anchorage
- **Kimberly Smith, Special Education Teacher**, Wonder Park Elementary School, Anchorage
- **Cindy Starr, Schoenbar Middle School, Speech Language Pathologist**, Pt. Higgins Elementary School and Ketchikan High School, Ketchikan
- **Kathy Stone, Hard of Hearing Program Teacher**, Williwaw Elementary School, Anchorage

The Inclusive Practices Award recognizes outstanding educators who work to ensure students with disabilities have the opportunity for an inclusive education in the general education curriculum. The nominations are based on the following activities that assure a positive learning environment for all:

- Involving parents as equal partners in their child's education
- Encouraging student's self-determination
- Emphasizing inclusive practices amongst peers and others
- Providing leadership in sharing the values of inclusion
- Designing support services that enable access to the regular curriculum
- Modifying programs or curricula as needed
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If you know any of these great educators please be sure and congratulate them on their amazing job of educating children with all different kinds of abilities!



From left: Clayton Holland, Director of Special Ed, KBPSD; Megan Fowler, Classroom Teacher; Callie Seater and Angel Smith, Paraprofessionals; Elizabeth Falk, Program Manager Pupil Services; Shane Bostic, Nikiski Middle/High School, Assistant Principal

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