

— A National School Public Relations Association award-winning newsletter —

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- To learn more about community partnerships, visit www.aps.k12.co.us/community/partners.html.
- Aurora Public Schools also publishes weekly stories on the back page of the *Aurora Sentinel*. To access these stories, log on to www.aps.k12.co.us/communications/ads.html.
- All APS news releases are also available online at www.aps.k12.co.us/communications/releases.html.
- E-News: <http://www.aps.k12.co.us/communications/enews/>.
- **To sign up for our online community newsletter, Community Connection, visit www.aps.k12.co.us/communications/connection/. Subscribers receive regular e-mail updates.**

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Congratulations Quarterly Award Winners

Superintendent John L. Barry recognized 11 individuals who make a difference in the lives of APS students in the second Quarterly Awards Recognition Ceremony. To see the winners, turn to page 2.



APS Staff Member in the Classroom at 80!

APS paraeducator Winifred "Winnie" Hinton loves being around children so much, she spends every day with them. After retiring from IBM, Hinton did a stint with Head Start, a preschool program, and then joined the staff at Altura Elementary School in 1998.

This energetic 80 year old shows no sign of stopping. Hinton works with third-grade students helping them with math and literacy. "I don't know what I'd do without Winnie. She's building the kids' self-esteem when they take turns reading aloud to her. I can see it in their faces," said Altura teacher Nikkole Strahan.

Students at Altura make it a point to hug Hinton every day. "Every year I say I'm going to retire, but I just can't do it! I feel like I'm making a positive impact on these children's education," Hinton said.

Quarterly Award Winners

Superintendent John L. Barry honored eight staff members, two parents and a community/business member with Quarterly Awards. Each quarter, Barry will honor outstanding contributors to Aurora Public Schools. Every quarterly winner is eligible for an annual award.

Licensed Employee, elementary



Trina Boyd-Pratt

*Teacher of visually impaired students,
various locations*

Photos of Quarterly Award winners will be displayed on a special “Wall of Fame,” located outside the boardroom in the APS administration building.

Students, parents, staff and community members may submit nominations online at www.aps.k12.co.us/hr/awards for the third quarter by March 2.

Superintendent's Quarterly Award

Classified Employee, support



John Kuchenbrod

*Journey Carpenter,
Maintenance and Operations*

Classified Employee, elementary



Nedra Rudolph

*Family Liaison,
Montview Elementary*

Classified Employee, secondary



Lora Decker

*Educational Assistant,
Gateway High School*

Quarterly Award Winners (continued)

Licensed Employee, elementary



Tracy Gallegos
*Teacher on Special Assignment,
Fletcher Elementary School*

*Administrative and Professional/
Technical employee*



Debbie Ellis
*Principal,
Century Elementary School*

Licensed Employee, middle school



Kim Martin
*Teacher,
Mrachek Middle School*

Parents



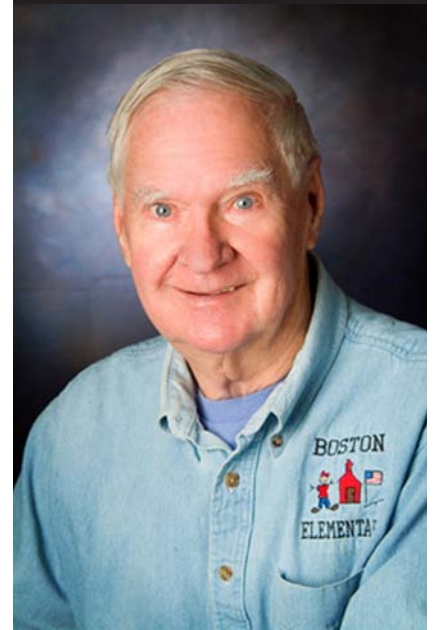
Byron Fugleberg
Parent, Laredo Elementary School
Terry Fugleberg
Parent, Laredo Elementary School

Licensed Employee, high school



Edward Wilson
*Automotive Technology Instructor,
Pickens Technical Center*

Community/business member



Bud Hall
*Volunteer,
Boston Elementary School*

APS in Action

APS Welcomes Two New Directors

- Damon Smith joined APS as director of human resources on Jan. 8. Smith served most recently as principal of Florida Pitt Waller K-8 School in Denver.



Smith, an Aurora native, attended Fulton and Yale elementary schools, Mrachek Middle School and graduated from Rangeview High School. He earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Denver. He has served in administrative positions since 2002.

"Coming back to APS is like coming home," said Smith. "I look forward to contributing to the district that provided me such a strong foundation."

- APS welcomed Ralph Albertson as the new director of student achievement—exceptional student services. Albertson comes to APS from Ohio, where he has served in administrative positions for the past 18 years. This proud Ohio State alumnus most recently served as the coordinator of special services for the South-Western City school district in Columbus, OH.



"I am grateful to be part of this forward-thinking team," Albertson said. "I look forward to continuing the work that has already begun to make APS the best district in the state."

Mrachek Teacher Provides Students with a One-Two Combination

Students at Mrachek Middle School should consider themselves fortunate to be saved by the bell in Chrisanne Roseleip's math class. Too bad the same can't be said for her kickboxing opponents.

Roseleip is not only a seventh-grade math teacher at Mrachek, she is also a professional kickboxer. Roseleip began kickboxing in 1999, and went on to become the 2002 Women's Super Welterweight Champion at the International Kickboxing Federation National Tournament.

Roseleip states that there are uncanny similarities between the ring and the classroom. "Like competing in the ring, there is never a dull moment," said Roseleip. "You have to be on your toes at all times."



Roseleip, right, adding a victory to the win column.

This past year, Roseleip's professional record grew to 4-0 with two technical knockouts. It's safe to say that there is no standing count for this middle school math teacher.



Roseleip with her students at Mrachek.



Pickens Teacher Recognized Nationally

Being recognized as one of the best at your craft is a goal for which most people strive. Pickens Tech HVAC teacher Dan Barden has reached it. Barden recently earned Honorable Mention in the National Instructor of the Year contest conducted by the Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute and *The News*, their online newsletter.

This honor places Barden in the seven top HVAC instructors in the nation. "It is always good to get recognition as a teacher. It is especially nice to be recognized nationally," Barden said.

The News featured Barden in a recent publication. To read his story, visit www.achrnews.com/CDA/Articles/Feature_Article/2242248fc39ce010VgnVCM100000f932a8c0.