



Woodstock Community Unit School District 200

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Contact: Kevin Lyons

815.337.3071

‘Difference Makers’ recognized for positive impacts

During the busy final week of school, Superintendent Mike Moan took an evening to recognize 26 employees and one community member as Difference Makers in Woodstock Community Unit School District 200.

Staff members including teachers, associates, transportation employees and information technology specialists were among those nominated by their colleagues as people who’ve made a positive impact on others during the school year.

“You make a difference, and I know that’s an easy saying, but for us there’s nothing more important than that you make a difference in the lives of children. It’s an amazing thing that we sometimes take for granted,” Moan said.

“This is an award that also comes from your peers,” he added. “The biggest factor that makes us a successful school district is our staff, and the fact that they’re all here every day making a difference.”

The May 20 event was held at Woodstock North High School. Staff members brought their families for a cookout prepared and served by District 200’s top administrators.

In addition to the staff recognition, Moan recognized longtime Woodstock Independent owner Cheryl Wormley who retired this year. Moan said Woodstock has been fortunate to have a hometown newspaper for 35 years, which is becoming less common in many communities.

“The Woodstock Independent tells not only the story of our District but of our students from the time they were at (Verda) Dierzen to graduating high school whether they were on honor roll, doing community service — Student of the Week, Athlete of the Week.”

“When you did something great, the Independent was there to tell your story,” Moan said. “That’s only been possible because of Cheryl Wormley.”

The following District 200 staff members were recognized as Difference Makers for the 2023-2024 school year:

Sunita Andrysiak - Prariewood

Michelle Keyfauver - Verda Dierzen

Julia Arias - Woodstock High

Amber Kling - Dean Street

Patrick Beahan - Woodstock North

Brittany Kopulos - Greenwood

Michelle Burgett - Woodstock High

Dawn Kraneman - Clay

Robert Danielson - Northwood

Aimee Marquardt - Olson

Jessica Diaz - Northwood

Mary Beth Martin-Bellavia - PWE

Destiny Dungey - Woodstock North

Krista Mayer - Mary Endres

Margaret Eaheart - Mary Endres

Lindsey Mortell - Greenwood

Nilusha Fernando Pulle - Dean Street

Jane Oates - Transportation

Rebecca Galloza - Verda Dierzen

Emily Pickering - Clay

Gretchen Guenther-Hutchens - CMS

Maelyn Thornton - Westwood

Natia Hong - Creekside

Viral Virani - Westwood

Sarah Janeczko - Olson

Brian Watkins - District