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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bentonville Schools Launches Doula Certification Program
High School Seniors to Positively Impact Maternal Health

Bentonville, Ark.—March 11, 2025—The Ignite Professional Studies Program, under the leadership of Bentonville Schools, is offering a doula certification program for high school seniors.

The program is possible thanks to a partnership with the Institute for Community Health Innovation.

“The training provided to our students through the Institute for Community Health Innovation is amongst the best in the nation,” said Superintendent Dr. Debbie Jones. “Our students are learning how to monitor high blood pressure, how to articulate a birth plan and, most importantly, how to advocate for an expectant mother,” she added.

This certification is timely as Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders recently signed into law the Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Act to better protect expectant mothers, including reimbursement for doula care.

“Arkansas has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the nation. Research indicates doulas positively impact this rate, along with enhancing overall maternal health,” said Bonnie Faitak with the Institute for Community Health Innovation.

Currently, 11 students are enrolled in the doula certification program through Bentonville Schools. These students receive real, relevant experience on site with our medical partners, including Mercy Health and Willow Creek Women’s Hospital.

About Bentonville Schools

Established in 1841, Bentonville Schools is the premier public school system in Arkansas, serving more than 19,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Twenty-four schools, spanning more than 143 miles across Northwest Arkansas, call the district home. Bentonville Schools is critically acclaimed for its academics, arts and athletics and is committed to excellence through innovative, inspiring learning experiences. For more information, visit bentonvillek12.org

