



Memorandum

To: Board of Education
CC: Dr. Debbie Jones, Superintendent
From: Leslee Wright, Director of Communications
RE: Extra Mile Service Award
Date: September 16, 2025

Melanie Woody is a 17-year veteran of Bentonville Schools, serving as an AP Psychology teacher at Bentonville High School. She was nominated for the Extra Mile Award by her colleague Shannon Finer, a counselor at Lincoln Jr. High.

Shannon wrote, "Melanie Woody is my child's teacher and to say that she has taken my daughter under her wing is an understatement." Shannon shared she's a single parent to her daughter Naftalie. Melanie has worked to ensure Naftalie excelled academically but also by making sure she is thriving in every other way. Whether it be making sure Naftalie can get to practice on time or making sure she understands classroom content, Melanie has shown up for Shannon's daughter and so many others over the years.

Melanie says such connection is the foundation of education.

"I love creating meaningful moments with students that allow them to feel safe and welcome in my classroom. I find that when those relationships are developed, the learning happens more naturally," she said.

It's our honor to celebrate Melanie with the Extra Mile Award.