



## Memorandum

To: Board of Education  
CC: Dr. Debbie Jones, Superintendent  
From: Leslee Wright, Director of Communications  
RE: Extra Mile Service Award  
Date: June 21, 2022

Laurie Harrison, a teacher at Fulbright Jr. High, is our Extra Mile Award recipient. Laurie is a forensics and theater teacher in Bentonville Schools. While she has mentored some extraordinary students, it's her investment in two perhaps unlikely student-actors that caught our attention. Laurie was nominated by Adrienne Nunn for her thoughtful commitment to Adrienne's twin sons. Adrienne wrote to us that both her sons are on the autism spectrum. One of these young men was filled with dread when he was assigned to Mrs. Harrison's class. His anxiety subsided though when he entered into the safe space his teacher created. Adrienne said her terrified son grew in self-confidence. He even convinced his brother to take the class with him at the start of the new year. Adrienne said her sons flourished under Mrs. Harrison's leadership and it's been a tremendous pleasure, as a mother, to watch her sons gain new skills that will serve them long after graduation.

Laurie is known for welcoming all students at Fulbright and encouraging them to find the right fit for their personal growth. We commend Laurie's servant leadership.

### **About the Extra Mile Award**

Any individual may nominate a Bentonville Schools employee at [bentonvillek12.org](https://bentonvillek12.org). Nominations will be considered by administration and that employee's direct supervisor. Nomination rules and considerations are posted on our website.