



AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

October 20, 2026

THINK LEARN BE
MORE
TOGETHER
POCATELLO/CHUBBUCK
SCHOOL DISTRICT 25



Tonight we will recognize several individuals who,
through their actions, support and embody our
District's Mission to THINK MORE, LEARN MORE,
and BE MORE TOGETHER.

THINK LEARN BE
MORE
TOGETHER
POCATELLO/CHUBBUCK
SCHOOL DISTRICT 25



PCSD 25 believes a safe, supportive, caring, and respectful environment is essential to learner success. The School District 25 Education Foundation, in partnership with Kind Community, sponsors the C.A.K.E. Award to recognize one elementary and one secondary learner each month from October through May. C.A.K.E. stands for Character, Attitude, Kindness, and Encouragement. Nominations are submitted by teachers who observe these qualities in their learners and are approved by each school's principal.

Recipients are recognized at a Board of Trustees meeting. Each learner and their nominating teacher receives a gift card, and a \$50 donation is made in the learner's name to purchase books for their school library, courtesy of Kind Community.

Elementary School Learner-of-the-Month

Paxton Park **4th Grade | Chubbuck Elementary School**

Nominated by:
Kris Gardner and Heather Reece

Our elementary C.A.K.E. Award recipient this month is Paxton Park, a fourth grader at Chubbuck Elementary, nominated by Kris Gardner and Heather Reece.

This year, Chubbuck Elementary invited some of its fourth graders to serve as "bus buddies," helping kindergarten learners safely find their way to the bus at the end of the school day. Paxton has embraced this responsibility with extraordinary kindness and care.

On his first day, the kindergarteners were nervous about following an older learner. Paxton reassured them that he would show them where to go and that they didn't need to be afraid. Once they reached the bus line, he pulled a Nerf ball and a toy motorcycle from his backpack to help them have fun while they waited.

The next day, Paxton proudly wore his official blue duty vest, and his kindergarten friends followed him with confidence. He has since taught them how to walk in a straight line, stays with them until their bus arrives, and makes sure they board safely.

What makes Paxton especially remarkable are the little things. When his younger friends talk to him, he kneels down to their eye level. When another learner fell and was bleeding, Paxton was ready with a Band-Aid from his vest pocket.

Paxton reminds us that leadership isn't about being the biggest or the oldest. It's about making others feel safe, included, and cared for.

Paxton, thank you for demonstrating Character, Attitude, Kindness, and Encouragement in such a meaningful way. Congratulations on being our elementary C.A.K.E. Award recipient!



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Secondary School Learner-of-the-Month

Castor Rayborn Arches 18-21 Transition Program

Nominated by:
Shelley Humphreys and
Jaimie Shawcroft

Our secondary C.A.K.E. Award recipient this month is Castor Rayborn from the Arches 18-21 Transition Program, nominated by Shelley Humphreys and Jaimie Shawcroft.

Castor is described by his teachers as an incredibly kind, courteous, and hardworking young man who brings positivity to everyone around him.

Balancing school with a part-time job, Castor demonstrates a strong work ethic and a commitment to doing his best. Despite his busy schedule, he always makes time for others.

Whether it's greeting someone with a welcoming smile, offering a kind word, or stepping in to help a fellow learner without being asked, Castor consistently demonstrates what it means to care for others.

What makes Castor special is that his kindness isn't something he does for recognition. It's simply part of who he is.

Castor, thank you for leading by example and demonstrating Character, Attitude, Kindness, and Encouragement in your everyday interactions. Your positive attitude and willingness to help others make a meaningful difference in your school community.

Congratulations on being our secondary C.A.K.E. Award recipient!



OCTOBER 2026

The Employee-of-the-Month P.I.E.S. award recognizes our employees who Positively Influence Educational Success. The award is for employees who go above and beyond in that effort.

PIES Award recipients receive a \$50 gift card from Lookout Credit Union, our educational partner for this award.

Holly Walster **Century High School | English Teacher**

Nominated by:
Danielle Isom-Fuess

Our October PIES Award recipient is Holly Walster, an English teacher at Century High School, nominated by her colleague Danielle Isom-Fuess.

Danielle joined Century this year after 20 years of teaching experience. While she was certainly no stranger to the classroom, she quickly discovered that being an experienced teacher doesn't make navigating a new school any less overwhelming.

That's where Holly stepped in.

Without being asked or assigned as a mentor, Holly approached Danielle with a simple question: "Tell me all the things you need and questions you have." She spent nearly an hour that first day helping Danielle navigate everything from important phone numbers and school procedures to counselors, printing, and preparing for the first day of school. She returned the next day to answer new questions and continued checking in, offering guidance, encouragement, and even an open invitation to join her for lunch.

As Holly reminded Danielle, even after 20 years of teaching, being new to a school means learning an entirely new system.

What makes this recognition especially meaningful is that Holly wasn't assigned to help. She simply recognized a need and stepped forward to make a difference. Danielle described Holly as a "lifesaver," crediting her kindness and support with helping her feel prepared and confident to welcome her learners on the first day of school.

Holly, thank you for demonstrating the power of collegiality, compassion, and leadership through everyday actions. Your willingness to support a new colleague not only made a difference for Danielle but also helped create a positive start for the learners she serves.

And Danielle, we also want to take this opportunity to officially welcome you to Century High School and the PCSD 25 community! We're delighted to have you as part of our team, and we're grateful you took the time to recognize a colleague who made your transition so welcoming.

Congratulations, Holly, on being our October PIES Award recipient!

ACADEMIC STATE CHAMPIONS

Tonight, we are proud to recognize two Highland High School athletic programs for earning 6A Academic State Championship honors from the Idaho High School Activities Association.

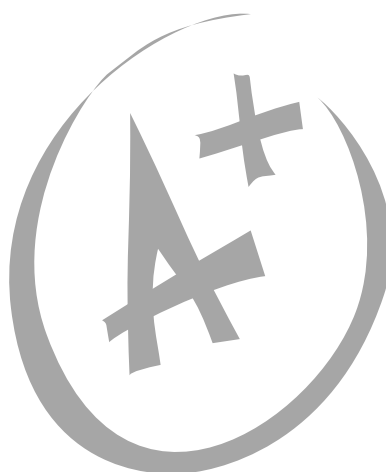
- Volleyball – 3.928 Team GPA
- Boys Swimming – 3.772 Team GPA

These awards recognize the varsity team in each classification with the highest cumulative team grade point average, celebrating student-athletes who demonstrate excellence both in the classroom and in competition.

And these achievements are part of an extraordinary districtwide tradition. Since the 2019–2020 school year, PCSD 25 athletic teams have earned 53 Academic State Championship honors across seven school years, including the two championships announced this fall.

Averaging more than seven Academic State Championships annually over the past seven completed school years, this record reflects sustained excellence and speaks to the dedication of our learners, the commitment of our coaches and educators, and the support of families who encourage achievement both in the classroom and in competition.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Pocatello/Chubbuck School District 25, congratulations to Highland Volleyball and Boys Swimming on earning these prestigious honors. You represent what it means to Think More. Learn More. Be MORE TOGETHER.



STATEWIDE HONORS

EXCELLENCE IN SPEECH, DEBATE, AND TECHNICAL THEATER EDUCATION

We are pleased to recognize three outstanding PCSD 25 educators who received statewide honors at the recent Idaho Speech Arts Teachers' Association (ISATA) Fall Conference.

These awards celebrate excellence in speech, debate, and technical theater education, recognizing educators who inspire creativity, critical thinking, communication, and confidence in their learners.

Please join us in congratulating:

- Ted Bonman, Century High School – Idaho Technical Theater Teacher of the Year
- Joseph Tyler, Century High School – Idaho Debate Teacher of the Year
- Robin Christensen, Pocatello High School – Idaho Speech Teacher of the Year

In addition to being named Speech Teacher of the Year, Robin Christensen was also inducted into the ISATA Hall of Fame, an extraordinary recognition of her contributions to speech education.

These honors are a testament to the quality of our educators and the opportunities they create for learners to discover their voices, develop their talents, and build skills that will serve them well beyond the classroom.

Ted, Joseph, and Robin, thank you for your dedication to your learners and for representing PCSD 25 with such distinction.

Congratulations on these well-deserved statewide honors!

Statewide Honors

Sarah
May Clarkson

College and Career Advisor
Highland High School



Higher Education Advocate of the Year

We are pleased to recognize Sarah May Clarkson, who was honored with the Higher Education Advocate of the Year Award at the Idaho Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (IACRAO) Conference in September.

This award recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional service, leadership, and a commitment to helping learners navigate their educational opportunities beyond high school.

Honorees are recognized for going above and beyond to simplify the college admissions process, remove barriers, and help learners access the resources and support they need to pursue their postsecondary goals.

Sarah, this recognition is a wonderful reflection of your dedication to helping learners envision and prepare for their futures. Thank you for the important role you play in supporting their success.

Congratulations on this well-deserved statewide recognition!



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