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PRESS RELEASE

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Announcing the 2020 Outstanding Educators of the Traverse Bay Region

Traverse City, Michigan -- Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District, Traverse Connect, and TBA Credit Union proudly announce the 2020 Outstanding Educator Award recipients. Established in 1984 by the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce, this regional Outstanding Educator Award program honors **ten** individuals who exhibit unique characteristics that represent the quintessential outstanding educator through leadership, excellence in school setting, evidence of student success, community engagement, and professional learning. Each year, nominations are submitted by public, private and parochial school administrators, colleagues, students, parents and community members throughout the five-county Traverse Bay region.

Presenting the 2020 honorees in alphabetical order:

James Brumfield – TCAPS Central High School Head of Security
Naomi Chalk – Elk Rapids Mill Creek Elementary 2nd Grade Teacher
Colleen Christensen – The Children’s House Director of Operations (Retired June 2020)
Mary Jane Collins – TCAPS Willow Hill Elementary 4th Grade Teacher
Mike Hartigan – Interim Superintendent of Leland Public Schools (Retired)
Nichelle Hursey – Suttons Bay Middle/High School Math Teacher
Lynda Key – TBAISD School Social Worker (Retired June 2020)
Brenda Lau – Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools Preschool Teacher
Michael Tiesworth – Frankfort-Elbert Area Schools Technology Director
Alison Wright – TCAPS Westwoods Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher (Retired June 2020)

Nominations were submitted in May and reviewed by a selection committee representative of school and community leaders and scored based on points awarded for demonstrated educational excellence. The 2020 Outstanding Educator Award recipients listed above have made exemplary contributions to the academic success of students, educational collaboration, and professional learning that exemplifies the best of the best in the field of education in the Traverse Bay region.

The 2019-20 school year, with the pandemic and closure of schools, presented some challenging circumstances and an adjustment to almost every routine in school communities, but the need to recognize individuals for their exceptional contribution and commitment to students and schools remained a priority for the Outstanding Educator Award program. In the absence of in-person celebrations during the pandemic, each awardee was recently honored by school leadership at their individual school work sites and will be invited to the stage of the City Opera House at the next in-person Outstanding Educator Award community celebration.

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*Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District serves Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau counties.
For more information about TBAISD visit www.tbaisd.org*

**2020 REGIONAL
OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS**



James Brumfield
Head of Security,
TCAPS Central High School



Mike Hartigan
Interim Superintendent (Retired)
Leland Public School



Brenda Lau, Preschool Teacher
Grand Traverse Area
Catholic Schools



Naomi Chalk
Elk Rapids Schools
Mill Creek Elementary



Nichelle Hursey
Middle/High School Math
Suttons Bay Public Schools



Michael Tiesworth
Technology Director
Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools



Colleen Christensen
The Children's House
Director of Operations (Retired)



Lynda Key
School Social Worker (Retired)
Traverse Bay Area ISD



Alison Wright
3rd Grade Teacher (Retired)
TCAPS Westwoods Elementary



Mary Jane Collins
4th Grade Teacher
TCAPS Willow Hill Elementary

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