



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

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Inclusive Practice Award

The Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education established the Inclusive Practice Award to recognize outstanding educators who work to ensure students with disabilities have the opportunity for an inclusive education with their peers as part of the general education curriculum. Nominations are made by parents, students and educators. The award is given each February at the Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference.

The 2010 winner of the Inclusive Practice Award is Adrienna Holden, Autism Specialist at Peterson Elementary School in Kodiak. Ms. Holden believes regular education students are the real teachers of the children she serves. She began a Partner's Club at the elementary school in which 40 students voluntarily signed up to participate in activities with the students in her class. She created a "Shoe Activity", which created a situation where the students with developmental disabilities experienced noise and physical closeness of their peers. Ms. Holden is always thinking about how students can meaningfully participate and cope with real life experiences. Her approach has resulted in her ability to reach out through consultation to other teachers in her school and throughout the Kodiak Island Borough School District.

The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education would like to commend the other Inclusive Practice Award nominees:

- Nathan Adams from Juneau-Douglas High School
- The Eagle River High School Team: Susan Berg, Jeanni Blakeney, Deanna (Dee) Davis, Sonia Herford, Angela Lindberg and Niki Razo in Eagle River
- Jenny Mc Avoy-Anteau from West High School in Anchorage
- Julie Plummer from Adak City School in Adak
- Rabbit Creek Elementary Team: Jan Burford, Margaret (Margie) Falsey, Susan Ritter in Anchorage
- Melodie Radcliffe from Eagle River High School in Eagle River
- Marti Rookala from Eagle View Elementary School in Unalaska
- Maryann (Merri) Rowe from Government Hill Elementary School in Anchorage
- Service High School Team: Phyllis Koehler, Melanie Villarreal, Johanne Whalen in Anchorage
- Polly Toovak from Fred Ipalook Elementary School in Barrow

If you know any of these great educators, send them an email congratulating them on a job well done!

Creating Change That Improves the Lives of People with Disabilities