



Recipients of Outstanding Educator awards: **Kate Schrock, Brittane Hendricks, Lisa Hawkins, Martha Little, Colleen Fairchild, Hortensia West, Deb Foreman, Susan Morris, Carla Pasculli, Katherine Wood, Deanna Henning, Lisa Roberts, Mayor Becky Erickson, Leah Titze, Kelly Rosenbach, Melinda Hughes, and Val Torrens.**

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21 teachers honored as Outstanding Educators

Twenty-one area teachers were awarded Outstanding Educator honors on Feb. 14 in a ceremony at Poulsbo Elementary School.

The Alpha Sigma chapter of DKG, Kitsap County, an international organization of key women educators, presented the awards to publicly acknowledge the achievements, dedication and outstanding service of these women.

"There are not enough opportunities in our community to recognize those teachers who consistently provide exceptional education to our children," chapter president Pat Bennett-Forman said. "Our DKG chapter wanted to rectify that omission."

Poulsbo Mayor Becky Erickson congratulated the teachers, thanking them for their commitment to

our community's children. She noted the importance of good teachers and good schools to a healthy community as she handed out the awards.

Five women, who have taught for less than five years, were recognized as "Outstanding New Educators" for their emerging leadership and successes in the classroom:

- Jessica Hamre, Woodlands Elementary School.

- Martha Little, Kingston Middle School.

- Lisa Roberts, Breidablik Elementary School.

- Andrea Smallbeck, Poulsbo Elementary School.

- Hortensia West, Naval Avenue Early Childhood Center.

"In a time when their very jobs are at risk due

to budget cuts, the professionalism of these women assure us that the future of education is in good hands," Bennett-Forman said.

Fourteen women were honored as "Outstanding Educators" for consistent exemplary instructional skills, achieving high degrees of student success, and leadership in school improvement. They were selected from nearly 100 nominees:

- Colleen Fairchild, Vinland Elementary School.

- Deb Foreman, Pearson Elementary School.

- Lisa Hawkins, Poulsbo Elementary School.

- Brittane Hendricks, Breidablik Elementary School.

- Seanna Hruska, Ordway Elementary School.

innovative, results-oriented and student-centered. They are an invaluable resource to the other staff they work with and beloved by students."

Also honored:

- DeAnna Henning, for her 17 successful years as head of school at Christ the King Academy in Poulsbo.

- Val Torrens, for her dedication to school improvement, equity and accountability as a member of the North Kitsap School District Board of Directors. Torrens was also recognized for her role as an instructor with Olympic College.

"We know there are many outstanding educators in all the public and private schools that serve children in the north end of Kitsap County," Bennett-Forman said. "It is nice to be able to say 'congratulations' and 'thank you' to a few of them."