



Congratulations to all the Nominees!

North Woods

Anna Auten, Teacher

It is only Anna's second year as a teacher, and yet you would never guess from the relationships she has developed with students and friends. She is so wonderful at reaching out to the students that struggle the most - spending time in the SPED room on her planning/lunch time to connect with them, spending time checking in with students at lunch, catching them in the hallway to connect. She has a knack for connecting with students that don't seem to connect anywhere else.

Gary Boisvert, Teacher

Gary is a whirlwind of energy that can always be trusted to get the job done. He is the master of all things technology, the master of all things in our library, and spends countless hours working on Battle of the Books. Most importantly I appreciate that Gary does an after school club AT Schuh Homes so that those students have the same opportunities as those that have convenient transportation.

Tanya Dagendesh, Teacher

Tanya makes such an amazing connection with all of her students. It is evident when you go in her class, or see her in the hall, and kids 4k through 5th grade are wanting to hug and wave to her.

Garrett Fischer, Administrator

If you ever wonder "What can one person do to make a difference?" ask any staff member that has worked with Garrett Fischer. His reliability, calm presence, and humility has made a drastic shift in our entire school community.

Cassie George, Teacher Assistant

Mrs George is a steadfast supporter of all students at our school. She is an action-oriented problem solver, a dynamic teammate, and a beloved member of our school community! She quite frankly does it all... and she does it with grace, humor, and a positive attitude!

Nancy Gersch, Teacher

Ms. Gersch has always been so kind and compassionate. She gets the kids engaged and makes them comfortable. She's an ear to listen, she shows empathy to my daughter, and she's her students biggest fan. She's an amazing teacher who deserves the recognition.

Kinsey Gibbs-Carter, School Nutrition

Kinsey does so many *extras* around the school that she is clearly beyond the role of lunch lady! She creates extra experiences for classrooms like learning to cook something in the kitchen, and has the most fantastic meal offerings for staff!

Miss Kinsey makes a positive impact on every student she meets! Not only is she the "best cooker in the whole world", she makes lunch FUN! From games, to prizes, she is incredible!

State Road Elementary

Nora Berken, Teacher Assistant

Mrs. Berken has been such a wonderful addition to State Road Elementary. She always has a smile on her face even though her job definitely has challenges. She emphasizes the strengths of the students she works with and just overall makes school better!

Teresa Fox, Teacher

Mrs. Fox is an exceptional educator! She is organized, a great communicator, fun, and positive influence on our kindergartener. She goes above and beyond to make sure all students and parents feel comfortable and included. She has a way of making everyone feel at home. Every elementary school needs a Mrs. Fox.

Mary Osborne, Teacher Assistant

Mrs. Osborne started working with my son this school year, and she has definitely been a bright spot in his life! She does her job well and meets her students' needs in fun, silly, and creative ways. We are so thankful that Mrs. Osborne is at State Road!

Jordan Peterson, Teacher

I cannot say enough good things about Ms. Peterson. I was so nervous when we moved to La Crosse that my son would have a hard time adjusting. Her excellence in meeting my son at his level and adapting to

his unique set of needs exceeded our expectations by a lot and tremendously eased the transition for our family. You can tell she she is this way with all of the students she works with. We are so grateful to Ms. Peterson and all of the TAs at State Road because their caring hearts have made a direct, lifelong impact on our son.

Brie Yager, Teacher Assistant

Ms. Yager is an incredible person and teacher assistant. You can tell that she genuinely cares about every student she works with. She makes me feel comfortable that my student will receive excellent care and education every day when I drop him off. We appreciate her so much!

Northside Elementary/Coulee Montessori

Sarah Bradle, Administrator

I would like to nominate our exceptional principal, Sarah, for the Shining Star colleague. Just as in the movie Remember the Titans, where the quote 'attitude reflects leadership, Captain' resonates deeply, Sarah has transformed the culture of our school with her unwavering positivity and determination. Her leadership style embodies the spirit of this quote, as she has instilled a sense of optimism and drive in our entire school community. Under her guidance, attitudes have shifted, and this positive energy has translated into tangible success for our students throughout the school year. Sarah's ability to lead by example, her infectious enthusiasm, and her dedication to our school's mission make her a true beacon of light and a deserving candidate.

Molly Brott, Teacher

I am thrilled to nominate Molly Brott for her exceptional dedication and unwavering positivity in the classroom. Each day, she radiates care and compassion for all her students, especially those with complex needs, making each one feel valued and supported. From the moment she starts her day with positive affirmations, she sets the tone for a nurturing and inclusive learning environment. Her commitment to fostering a sense of belonging and confidence among her students is truly inspiring, and her efforts undoubtedly make a profound impact on their lives. Molly embodies the essence of what it means to be an outstanding educator, and her presence brightens the days of everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Nikki Rislow, Teacher

Mrs. Nikki Rislow is deeply dedicated to the success and happiness of each and every child while taking into account their individual needs and wants. Her patience is unmatched and unwavering. Her hard work often goes unnoticed to those outside of the classroom but it's impossible to miss when we see our children glowing from within from the love she limitlessly provides them. Even more amazing is the pride they take in spreading that same love every day to others.

Mrs. Nikki sees the beauty and potential in every student and situation and has the impeccable gift of

sharing what she sees in the most enchanting way.
Learning in her classroom is fun, engaging, meaningful and magical.
I cannot think of anyone more deserving of a Shining Star award and would love for Nikki to be recognized for her outstanding teaching.
We truly are the lucky ones for having her!

Emerson Elementary

Eric Check, Principal

My kid gets a big smile and welcome every day walking into school. It makes quite an impression and positive environment.

Tatum Marcon, Teacher Assistant

Tatum is one of the most kind, understanding and patient people I have ever met. She is flexible and doesn't shy away from difficult situations while working in special education. She cares about kids and it shows because they care about her as well. We are lucky to have her as part of Emerson. Thank you Tatum!

Jenny Ruetten, Teacher

Jenny is a shining star and always looks to do what is best for kids! She encourages everyone around her, including me, and empowers the dreams of others! I'm so grateful for every opportunity we've had together and so lucky to have her!

Patrick Shay, Teacher

Mr. Shay brings passion to school each day along with humor, understanding and hard work. Mr. Shay meets kids where they are at, builds great relationships with students of all needs and students enjoy being in his class because he makes it light at times with funny stories and real world examples to make learning more fun and engaging. Thank you for all that you do!

Nancy Weaver, Teacher

Nancy has an amazing ability to make everyone feel seen, heard and cared for every single day. Her students never forget her and come to give her hugs long after they are done in her kindergarten class. She brings gifts to her fellow staff members to thank them for just doing their jobs! She is a shining star each and every day!

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Hamilton Elementary

Shannon Daily, School Nutrition

Shannon recently went out of her way to support our Steering Committee putting on a fundraiser. She helped us plan, order food, spent extra time prepping and cooking. We could not have done it without her! Her knowledge, can-do attitude, and sunny disposition made the event a big success. We're so grateful for her!

Shannon was absolutely amazing during our new Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser! She helped plan the menu, strategize the serving, stayed late to prepare ingredients, and then stayed late to help us cook and serve the meal. When the fundraiser was over, she gave us some excellent advice for next year, and promised to help us do it again! She was an absolute rock star and we wouldn't have been able to do it without her! We're so appreciative of Ms Shannon and her dedication to the kids and her work. Thank you so much!

Katherine Erickson, Teacher

Katherine is a strong and kind leader always looking for new opportunities for her students and our school. She expresses kindness every day, from helping clean up a broken vase, to grabbing a forgotten clipboard, and always being there for a hug. She is intuitive when it comes to others and can spot when someone needs a hand, and she is always there to lend one. I am so grateful to work with her!

Maria Henry, Teacher

Mrs. Henry is such a loving and supportive teacher to her students! My son's reading and math scores have soared under her teaching, and he has become so much more confident in his abilities. I am so impressed with her classroom management skills too!

Mrs Henry can teach children to read like magic! I am constantly blown away by the weekly improvement my 1st grader comes home with. Not only that but she juggles a class of BIG personalities and they a big and meaningful discussions on a regular basis. My child always comes home with important conversations and new skills and I could not be happier with our experience at SOTA1.

Mike Lawrence, Teacher

He's truly an awesome teacher, who gives back so much to his students. I cannot say enough about how wonderful he is and how much my daughter has loved being in his class.

Mike works so hard and is constantly thinking of new things to do with his students! From a pet food pantry to hydroponics, and even a field trip on the very first day of school this year, Mike never stops leveling up his teaching! His relationships with his students are top notch and he is popular amongst students throughout the entire building! He has kids visiting his room before school, during lunch, and

after school! He never complains and always has a positive attitude! The world needs more teachers like Mike!

Mike always finds a way to make us laugh and make our learning fun. There is something new everyday with him! I love doing Bike with Mike on Fridays, growing lettuce in our classroom and our tradition of singing Sweet Caroline every Friday before we leave school. Mike. Is. Awesome! - 4th grade student of Mike's.

Austin Mickschl, Teacher

Mr. Mickschl goes above and beyond to support our students. He comes up with innovative ways to bring lessons alive through his own passions like bees, or the Civil War. He not only does a great job working with our children in the classroom, but also shows up to events to support the whole community!

Mandy Parmeter, Teacher

Mandy is knocking it out of the park in her first year at Ham/SOTA/Central! She is always there when I need anything, and brightens my day when we get to check in with each other :) She works so hard and tries innovative new things, like installing amazing spotlights on the ceiling to help her students focus! La Crosse is lucky to have her!!!!

Summitt Environmental Elementary

Katie Davis, Teacher Assistant

Katie is ALWAYS doing what is beyond her job description! She is always willing to cover classrooms when the school is short staffed and she is willing to learn and be proactive about student behaviors. There are many more "behind the scenes" things that Katie does every day that many people don't realize. We see you, Katie! And we appreciate everything you have done and continue to do!

Spence Elementary

Karla Fitzgerald, Teacher

Karla is a team player! She is our student success coach and helps all staff at our building to do our best for the kids! She's always positive, caring and supportive! She goes above and beyond every day! She's the best!

Hintgen Elementary

Emily Juneau, Teacher

Emily is incredibly dedicated to the whole person and she gives everything she has to her students, their families, teaching team, and school community! It is amazing to watch her use her gifts to help others succeed!

Christine Rox, Teacher

You are guaranteed a smile and patience of a saint when you are in Mrs. Rox's kindergarten class. She is a pillar of the school and the heart for the students. She follows them even after they leave her for higher grades. She is such a blessing.

Jen Thill-Sanders, Teacher

Jen always puts on her A game for every child, every minute of the school day. She's always got a smile on and gives her students the best that they can get!

Longfellow Middle

Roxanne Hicke, School Nutrition

Roxanne started at Longfellow after the Lincoln closure, jumped right in and helped make the transition for all the kids and staff a little easier. She is a hard worker and has the kindest heart.

Mandi Hundt, Teacher

Mrs. Hundt has been an amazing teacher for our 8th grader! She is extremely knowledgeable in what she is teaching, appreciates my quirky child, and has valuable advice about transitioning to high school, from her own perspective!

We can't say thank you enough to Mrs. Hundt!

Miranda Parker, Administrative Assistant

Any time I call the office, Andi is always so friendly and helpful! No matter what the issue is, or whether not she has an immediate answer, she always follow through.

Ty Washington, Teacher

Mr. Washington is a one-of-a-kind, amazing teacher! His sense of humor, high expectations, and positive energy creates an atmosphere middle schoolers appreciate and love. We can't thank Mr. Washington enough for all he does.

Logan Middle

Kalista Richardson, Dean of Students

Kalista Richardson is absolutely amazing with the students. She cares deeply about those children and she bends over backwards to help families. This woman even came to my house, in an attempt to get my child to school. If Kalista says she's going to do something? She does it with a smile on her face. While I love the fact she is the Dean of Students, I believe she would be a great asset as a Principal of any school.

Polytechnic/CRVA

Brad Bryan, Student Success Coach

Brad set up an opportunity for our middle school students to present immigration cases before a judge at the County Courthouse - awesome opportunity and great to see! He also organized a Monday morning yoga class for students & staff :)

Caitlin Glimmee, Teacher

Caitlin has been such an amazing co-worker throughout my transition to this position this year. She is kind and helpful and goes above and beyond. CRVA isn't always an easy space to work in, but I truly enjoy collaborating with her to meet the needs of our shared students.

Jason Krug, Teacher

Jason joined the Poly team at semester which can be hard, esp. in a small school. He always has a smile on his face and has developed great relationships with our students who have experienced the loss of several teachers in our small community. He even took students to the County Courthouse to present immigration cases as the culmination of their unit on Immigration.

Quartell Roberson, Administrator

Q joined the Poly staff in December and has been such as asset to our students, staff and families! He connects with students and communicates well with staff. His ability to jump into a new position and lead in our building makes my day brighter!

Katy Web, Teacher

Katy Weber works hard to guide new teachers and share the core values of La Crosse Polytechnic.

Central High

David Busch, Custodial/Buildings and Grounds

David is always available to go above and beyond for any and all requests from community volunteers during evening and weekend events at Central very efficiently and with a smile on his face!

Jolene Goodman, Administrative Assistant

No matter how busy Jolene is, finding last minute substitutes, taking phone calls, calling a custodian over the walkie talkie for something, etc. she always has a positive smile on her face and exudes positive energy to all. She helps find answers and helps direct questions to the proper person. Everyone's day is brighter as Jolene keeps Central High School running smoothly. She is modest and gives credit to others, but she really keeps our Central Staff team together. We are so fortunate to have her!

Ryan Schaller, Guidance Counselor

Ryan has my my children realize there potential and helped them rise above so much negativity they had to deal with over the past year. He is always there to help me and my girls when we have questions. He has always got a kind smile and words of encouragement for everyone he passes.

Logan High

Garrett Carlson, Teacher

As teacher and coach, we so appreciate Mr. Carlson's positive mentorship!

Steven Duffrin, Teacher

Mr. Duffrin is a teacher and coach who brings out the best in the students he works with. We appreciate all he does for students so much!!

Wally Gnewikow, Administrator

Mr. Gnewikow makes deliberate efforts to shoulder responsibilities in a way that takes burden and stress off of our staff. He empowers staff and works alongside them make our school a positive place to be. He truly exemplifies what it means to be a servant leader.

Wally goes out of his way to make sure that every student, parent, and employee feels heard and valued. He is a great listener who always aims to do right by Logan High School.

Keith Harter, Custodial/Buildings and Grounds

Keith, with the assistance of his crew, keep, Logan in wonderful shape. One just has to walk in the front doors and see the gleaming floors to know the pride Keith takes in his work. He works quietly, without fanfare, to handle every need the staff finds and every mess the students make. He goes above and beyond, coordinating larger projects with craftspeople at Hogan and delivering the bigger parcels we may have trouble handling. Keith is the busy man keeping LHS the beautiful place we are proud of.

Allecia Kruser, Teacher

Allecia is in her first year as the chair of the art department, teaches a double overload AND oversees the Logan Visual Arts Classic team, yet still makes time to help prepare materials and keep things stocked for the two of us who travel teach at Logan. She is doing an amazing job and keeps a calm collected presence while working her tail off!

Mark Lakman, Teacher

Mr. Lakman teaches, leads, and develops students in a very positive way. We appreciate his hard work do much!!

Jena Monroe, Teacher

Ms. Monroe encourages and inspires her students and athletes! She is warm, caring, and encouraging. We appreciate her so much!!

Kristi Moulton, Technology/LMC Staff

Kristi has a positive attitude that is contagious. She looks for the best in students, staff, and situations—without being a Pollyanna. She's not afraid to fight for a cause when it is just. She goes out of her way to help students connect with the right book, staff, or potential job shadow. She eagerly does storytime events for the ID students. Kristi frequently works with other groups such as the public library and LPEF to bring amazing experiences to her students. In her years at Logan, she's worked to make the library a more welcoming space for reader and nonreader alike.

Brian Renkas, Teacher

We so appreciate all the hard work Mr. Renkas does for students!! He is growing and developing people as well as musicians. Thank you!

Administration/Hogan

Stacy Pierce, Administrative Assistant

Stacy is always there to help with anything I need! She stays positive no matter what comes her way and remains determined to helping staff in the district continue their impact with students!