

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #129 (2004-2005)

December 13, 2004

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: MILKEN NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD

PERTINENT FACTS:

Chugach Optional kindergarten teacher Jean Ward arrived at school on Monday, November 8, prepared to teach. But she wasn't at all prepared for what she was about to learn.

Ward and her kindergarten class, along with the other Chugach Optional students and staff, gathered in the school's gymnasium and prepared for a performance by a local native dance group. The dance group, however, was pre-empted by a surprise visit by Anchorage School District Superintendent Carol Comeau and Commissioner of Education and Early Development Roger Sampson who delivered the news that Ward had been chosen by the Milken Family Foundation in California for a 2004 National Educator Award.

This national award recognizes exceptional teachers, principals and specialists in K-12 education. These individuals demonstrate expertise in subject matter, distinguished achievement in developing innovative curricula, outstanding ability to instill students with sound values and commitment to professional development and excellence. The award identifies some of the nation's best educators and seals that distinction with a \$25,000 cash award.

The Anchorage School District has had 16 Milken award recipients since 1990, when Alaska first began participating in the program.

It is requested that the School Board recognize Jean Ward for receiving the prestigious 2004 Milken National Educator Award. She is a credit to her profession, the Anchorage School District and the local community.

CC/ME/LN

Prepared by: Lori Nakanishi, Communications Specialist
Approved by: Michelle Egan, Director, Communications