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### **West Bend School District Awards Six Deserving Individuals Support Employee of the Year Awards for 2023**

West Bend – The West Bend School District Support Employee of the Year Awards recognize outstanding contributions to the district by people who are aides, custodians and maintenance workers, drivers, clerical workers, school nutrition workers, or other office staff. For 2023, the six recipients are integral not only to the other staff, but to students as well. Each recipient receives a \$300 award.

The criteria for the award is based on the West Bend School District's core values and include: Learning for All, Innovation, Visionary Leadership, Results/Data-Driven Decisions, Customer Satisfaction, Our People, Commitment and Engagement, and Stewardship. The 2023 winners are:

#### **Richard Anderson**

*Custodial/Maintenance, Decorah Elementary School*

Staff at Decorah describe Richard Anderson as one of the kindest, most generous people at the school. He has worked at Decorah for seven years and not only genuinely cares about the appearance of the building, but also about the students.

Richard has a wonderful work ethic and a positive and caring attitude. In fact, he mentors students who are having a difficult day. He also created the school welcoming bulletin board. Richard is truly a part of the staff as he participates in school dress up days, sends encouraging emails to all Decorah staff, provides delicious snacks for staff on occasion, takes pride in maintaining a sparkling clean school, and can fix most anything.

#### **Kim Christiansen**

*Library Media Services Coordinator, Education Service Center*

Throughout her 26 years with the West Bend School District, Kim Christiansen's dedication is unmatched. Kim oversees the nine libraries while being kind, passionate, dedicated, supportive, flexible, patient, thoughtful, and possessing the ability to calmly manage the many ups and

downs she encounters. She holds a wealth of knowledge and information on a plethora of topics—from A to Z (and .001 to 999.99 in non-fiction)! The patience and joy she shows in her day to day interactions with students and staff is inspiring. Kim's list of responsibilities is endless and throughout it all, she continues to share her calmness and knowledge in a respected and professional manner.

### **Jerry Donath**

*Truck Driver, School Nutrition*

Jerry Donath has delivered the food to all WBSD schools for eight years no matter the weather. It could be raining, sleet, snowing, hailing, blizzard conditions, or even 100 degrees and nothing will slow him down. Since Jerry travels to each of the district's buildings, he is the "face" of the School Nutrition Department. He maintains a great relationship with the School Nutrition team, teachers, custodial workers, and office personnel. His friendly demeanor and outgoing attitude puts a shining light on any building he enters. Jerry has stepped in when others have called in sick, covered other shifts and will help wherever needed because he is dependable and has been a great role model for colleagues he has trained.

### **Shelly Newman**

*Classroom Paraprofessional, Green Tree Elementary School*

Shelly Newman wears many hats at Green Tree. She helps at breakfast, is a paraprofessional, fills in for the nurse, is a crossing guard, and helps out in the office whenever needed. She is the kind of person that you want to work with. She is dependable, dedicated, open, honest, and trustworthy. Shelly has served the West Bend School District for 10 years and is always willing to help in every sense of the word. Whether it is to stay late, help students with schoolwork, lend a listening ear, support after school events, or to fill in for staff absences, Shelly is always ready to pitch in while modeling a positive attitude for everyone else.

### **Sheela Pudwell**

*Classroom Paraprofessional, Silverbrook*

Sheela Pudwell has served the West Bend School District for five years working in multiple buildings with students of all ages. Her ability to reach children of every age and background is just one of countless talents she has. Sheela is always calm and patient when working with students. This is one of the reasons she can truly help any child. She wants all students to be successful and she is willing to help in any way possible to make that happen. Sheela has shown great flexibility in stepping in to help in any capacity that has been needed. Staff members frequently comment on her willingness to help in any manner, as well as her extreme patience while navigating even the most difficult situations.

### **Sachiko Roemer**

*Cook, School Nutrition*

Sachiko Roemer has been a cook for School Nutrition for four years. She started her journey with us as a high school rotational employee, then moved to substitute cook, and now is one of

the full time cooks at the high school. Sachiko's work ethic is one of a kind and her priority is the quality of food. She will adjust her timing, temperatures, and so on, to enhance whatever she is cooking. Sachiko comes up with ideas that no one thought of before and her communication to the cafeteria coordinators goes above and beyond to make sure the daily menu is fantastic.

The West Bend Joint School District #1 is proud to serve nearly 5,800 students and their families from the city of West Bend, villages of Jackson and Newburg, and townships of Barton, Polk, Trenton, Jackson, West Bend, and Addison. We strive to ensure that every student is given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts, and co-curricular activities. Within our community-based 4K program, Head Start program, five elementary schools (K-4), one intermediate school (5-6), one middle school (7-8), and two high schools (9-12), families can expect a caring, inclusive learning environment that supports the development of the whole child. Visit [www.west-bend.k12.wi.us](http://www.west-bend.k12.wi.us) for more information.

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