



## *From the Cabinet*

*By Superintendent Dr. Rupak Gandhi*

### **Thank You**

Last week, I had the honor of recognizing Mrs. Amy Anderson as the [2022 Fargo Public Schools Teacher of the Year](#). Mrs. Anderson is an Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Teacher in Fargo Public Schools and has worked within Fargo Public Schools for 22 years, accounting for nearly all of her post-collegiate professional experience.

In her current roles, Mrs. Anderson provides special education services to children ages 3-5 with a variety of special needs. She also works side-by-side with FPS Early Childhood Educators in the ECSE and Evenstart Family Literacy Programs as a coach and mentor to increase overall school readiness and literacy skills in the District's youngest learners.

When I announce our Staff Recognition program award recipients each year, I often say, "This is one of the favorite parts of my job." While getting to surprise staff members with the recognition they deserve is truly rewarding, my phrase isn't only applicable to that moment. A favorite part of my job is going through the entire process of the Staff Recognition Awards each year. During the process, I am privileged to be on a team that reviews all nominations and I get a small sample of the many incredible educators in our district that continuously make a difference in the lives of the students they serve.

Mrs. Anderson's selection as Teacher of the Year is reflective of the enthusiastic testimonials of her unceasing persistence and dedication to ensuring that each student receives the instruction and care they require to find the success they deserve. She is described as understanding of the needs of her



*FPS Superintendent Dr. Rupak Gandhi (right) presents the 2022 Fargo Public Schools Teacher of the Year award to Mrs. Amy Anderson (left).*



## *From the Cabinet, continued*

students, able to identify how to help each individual in the exact way that will be most beneficial for them. She is described as being a leader, innovator and role model for her peers. By helping her fellow teachers to learn and grow, her impact on students reaches beyond just those students she works with firsthand.

After receiving the award, Mrs. Anderson shared a few words with her team at the Early Childhood Special Education Center. During her acknowledgement, she consistently expressed gratitude for the educators she works with and referred to the recognition as a team award, both professionally (colleagues) and personally (family).

She is absolutely right. We are a team at Fargo Public Schools and our students are better for it!

When we review the nominations for our Staff Recognition program, we see testimonials similar to those provided for Mrs. Anderson written for staff members throughout our organization at all schools and all buildings. I am continually grateful for each staff member that continues to go above and beyond every day to ensure that we are fulfilling our District's mission of Educating and Empowering All Students to Succeed. We still have two Staff Recognition Awards to distribute this year, but I know that there are many more that are deserving of this honor. For that reason, I want to simply say **Thank You. Thank you to all of you because we are all a team, together.**

