



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MEDIA ALERT** – Tuesday, April 27, 2021  
**Fargo Public School District #1**

## **FISHER NAMED FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021 SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR**



Fargo Public Schools District Office Human Resources Absence Manager **Brenda Fisher** has been named the **Fargo Public Schools 2021 Support Staff of the Year**. Superintendent Dr. Rupak Gandhi and Human Resources Director Doug Andring made the surprise announcement today.

Fisher has served Fargo Public Schools (FPS) for two decades through a number of roles. Her FPS career began in 2001 at the Eagles Kindergarten Center as a paraeducator and clerical support staff member. She transitioned roles in 2006, becoming a library paraeducator at South High School. In 2011, she moved to Davies High School as an instructional resources library assistant. Fisher

then moved to her current position as a human resources absence manager at the District office in 2013.

Fisher's selection as Support Staff of the Year is a reflection of her integral role at Fargo Public Schools. She has been a steady, friendly, and compassionate voice for all buildings across the District. In her role as human resources absence manager, Fisher has excelled through staffing challenges stemming from COVID-19. She skillfully manages and organizes substitute positions to make sure all classrooms and students are cared for by qualified individuals when staff members are away for extended quarantine times and general absences. Since the start of the 2020-21 school year, she has handled nearly 9,000 teacher and paraeducator absences, of which 4,300 needed substitutes. These numbers are well above average, if not historic, and are displays of her dedication to the District. She is also a 21<sup>st</sup> century problem solver; during the height of COVID-19, Fisher recognized the need for streamlined processes and worked to implement a staff quarantine notification system that eases burdens for the entire District. While Fisher does not work directly with students on a daily basis in her current role, administration hails her outstanding work as a key component to fulfilling the District's mission of educating and empowering all students to succeed. Without the work she has done to strategically place substitute teachers in schools through the pandemic, many classrooms could have potentially been shut down due to staffing shortages.

Fisher's colleagues have high praise for her powerful work ethic and positive attitude. She is often referred to as one of the nicest people at Fargo Public Schools. She greets everyone she talks to on the phone or encounters in person with a sincere and kind "Good morning! How are you?" She has a way of making each person feel important, cared for, and valued. This is especially true in

emergencies when employees have to call in about their absences. Her empathetic and endearing tone brings comfort to coworkers going through difficult moments. She is also known to go above her normal call of duty by working early, staying after hours, and helping coworkers on weekends.

Fisher follows Longfellow Elementary School Kitchen Manager Alison Beutler as the District's recipient of the Support Staff of the Year honor. The Fargo Public Schools Support Staff of the Year award has been presented within the District since 2014. The honor is an award regularly bestowed as part of the District's annual Staff Recognition Program. The District also annually recognizes a Teacher of the Year and an Administrator of the Year.

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