



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fargo Public School District #1

HEATH NAMED FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2023 SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR



Arati Heath, administrative assistant for the English Learner and Summer School programs at the Agassiz Building, has been named the Fargo Public Schools Support Staff of the Year. FPS Superintendent Dr. Rupak Gandhi and Dakota High School Principal David Burkman made the surprise announcement today at the Agassiz Building during the building’s annual talent show.

She is described as an individual who, “takes pride in doing excellent work excellently,” and “believes that life is about helping others in a way that shows they matter and are valued.”

In her role with the English Learner program, Heath collaborates with the administrative assistants and EL teachers at all of Fargo Public Schools’ buildings. The EL team serves more than 900 students across 23 sites. She is the primary communicator with District interpreter services and the English Learner Family Liaison Program, which aims to improve school-family communication and understanding for EL students. She also works closely with the EL K-5 summer school program at Agassiz, which serves 180 students each summer. Heath is originally from Nepal and steps in as a Nepali interpreter when necessary.

Heath, along with three others, is a key organizer of English Learner Family Nights at Agassiz. The bimonthly meetings, which began in 2021, feature a meal, arts and crafts, games, and breakout learning by age group. The events are attended by an average of about 70 individuals, ranging in age from newborn to 65 years or older. One of her nominators says that Heath “goes above and beyond expectations to make sure every family night is an engaging, worthwhile event.”

As an administrative assistant for the FPS Summer School program, Heath collaborates on the leadership team that oversees summer programs for middle school, high school, ELD, and music and sports camps. FPS Summer School serves more than 1,200 students each summer. Heath provides input and leadership with all summer school details, including pre-registration, registration, staff communication, budgets, payroll, state reporting, general inquiries, and more.

Heath began with Fargo Public Schools as a special education paraeducator at Roosevelt Elementary School in 2018. She moved into her role as an administrative assistant at Agassiz in 2020. Prior to beginning with Fargo Public Schools, Heath worked at Noridian Healthcare

Solutions as a customer service representative and a redeterminations examiner, and at Bethany Homes as a certified nursing assistant.

Heath follows South High School Lead Custodian Joel Cross as the Support Staff of the Year honoree. 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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