

# **NEWS**

*from Durango School District 9-R*



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## **DFEE honors outstanding employees at annual recognition reception**

Seven staff members were honored as the 2008 Durango Foundation of Educational Excellence “Outstanding 9-R Employees of the Year” at the annual recognition reception held Thursday, May 1, at Pat Murphy Motors. DFEE honored one elementary, middle school, high school teacher, and four staff members every year.

This year’s award-winners include Escalante’s Special Education Instructional Aids Joyce Watt and Janet Wallace, Transportation Bus Technician Daniel Blythe, Riverview Counselor Katie Pytte, Durango High School Math teacher Matt Hoaglin, Escalante Social Studies teacher John Hise, and Needham GT teacher Nicki Masseion.

Students, parents, and colleagues nominate staff and teachers for the annual awards.

Also nominated for the high school award were Barbara McLachlan, Eric Jackson, Maria Gonzales, and Robin Tiles-Fitzpatrick, all from Durango High School, and Robert Javier from Durango Academy.

Also nominated for the middle school award were Robert Javier of Durango Academy; Andrea Nachtrieb, Sherry Grazda, and Linda Schwinghammer, all of Escalante Middle School; Amy Raso, Chuck Lang, Greg Janus, Jackie McManus, and Louis Poitry, all from Miller Middle School.

Also nominated for the elementary award were Becca Steinbach and Janet Oliver of Animas Valley; Kristi Wiebel and Sue Mooney of Fort Lewis Mesa Elementary; Karen Reiter, Gina Preszler; and Mary LeClaire from Needham; Susan Collins of Park Elementary School, and Melissa Vance of Sunnyside Elementary School.

Other staff members nominated for the 2008 awards were Barb Colbert and Jenny Pritchard with the District Health Office; Krista Garand with Student Nutrition; Tracy Willbanks with Public Information; William Schutt from Technology; Cris Garcia from Animas Valley; Jennifer Roper from Durango Academy; Sue Ullom and Terry Blair-Burton from Fort Lewis Mesa; Ed Simons and Gail Cartwright from Miller Middle School; Becky Williams from Needham Elementary School; Kristin Caldwell from Park Elementary School; and Brittany Hanson from Sunnyside.

The Durango Foundation for Educational Excellence is a private, non-profit organization that raises funds to provide programs and services in District 9-R schools that would otherwise not exist without DFEE’s financial assistance. Sandra Smith is executive director.