

Aberdeen School District No. 5

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Aberdeen School Board names employees of the year

The Aberdeen School District Board of Directors presented employee of the year awards at its meeting Tuesday, June 4. Tiffany Montoure, a second-grade teacher at A.J. West Elementary School, is the district's teacher of the year and Carrie Smith, an MTSS assistant at Aberdeen High School, is the classified employee of the year.

Mrs. Montoure has been teaching at A.J. West for 22 years, but her tenure at the school goes back even further. She actually attended A.J. West Elementary growing up. Mrs. Montoure has also served as a coach for the Aberdeen High School girls' swim team, most recently as the head coach from 2021-2024.

During the presentation, Mrs. Montoure was praised as an educator who works tirelessly to provide children with diverse learning opportunities, while also exhibiting patience, empathy and the ability to adapt to individual student needs. She also plays a lead role organizing the school's annual Fun Run, a tradition that helps keep hundreds of families connected to the school.

"Tiffany empowers her students," Superintendent Traci Sandstrom said. "Every talent is nurtured, and every student shines in her classroom. She has dedicated her career to the students at A. J. West and has been instrumental in creating a family atmosphere where families want to send their kids."

Mrs. Smith, the district's classified employee of the year, has worked at Aberdeen High School for the past 10 years, including the past four years as an MTSS assistant (Multi-Tiered Systems and Supports) in the English Learner (EL) program. She was praised as someone who brings an inspiring level of enthusiasm and kindness to the classroom, and who goes above and beyond to mentor EL students so that they can experience success.

"Carrie is a true advocate for students," Superintendent Lynn Green said. "She builds positive relationships and supports students, meeting them where they are and helping them to navigate their way to success. She is a trusted resource for our EL students."

Both the teacher of the year and classified employee of the year will become Aberdeen's nominees for regional recognition later this year.

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For more information, contact the Superintendents' Office at (360) 538-2002 or dshaw@asd5.org.