



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ten U-46 Employees Honored at State Level

*Those Who Excel and Golden Apple programs
recognize excellence in education*

ELGIN - Five teachers, three administrators, and a coordinator for School District U-46's homeless education program were recognized recently in the Illinois State Board of Education's annual Those Who Excel program. In addition, a high school CTE teacher was among the finalists for the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching.

All 10 were honored Monday night by the U-46 Board of Education with Accent on Achievement certificates.

"Each one of these outstanding individuals is dedicated to helping prepare our students for a successful future," said U-46 Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Johnson. "We celebrate their experience, enthusiasm, and passion, and we are grateful to have them as part of the U-46 team."

[Golden Apple](#) is an Illinois nonprofit committed to recognizing exemplary educators and developing future educators. The Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching honors outstanding teachers for having lasting, positive effects on students' lives and school communities.

ISBE's [Those Who Excel and Teacher of the Year Awards](#) celebrate classroom teachers, administrators, teams, volunteers, and school support personnel who have made lasting impacts on the students, families, and fellow educators in their school communities. ISBE will celebrate the awardees at a spring banquet.

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The 10 honored U-46 employees are as follows:

Name	Role and Building or Department	Award	Professional Category
Kimberly Blazek	2nd grade teacher at Centennial Elementary School	ISBE Award of Excellence	Classroom Teacher
Patricia Briones	Project Access Coordinator	ISBE Award of Special Recognition	Student Support Personnel
Matt Erbach	Precision manufacturing teacher at South Elgin High School	Golden Apple Award for Excellence	CTE Teacher
Jill Gerovac	Math teacher at Eastview Middle School	ISBE Award of Excellence	Classroom Teacher
Angela Ginnan	Principal at Eastview Middle School	ISBE Award of Meritorious Service	School Administrator
Paul Kowalyszyn	English teacher and instructional coach at Streamwood High School	ISBE Award of Meritorious Service	Classroom Teacher
Lela Majstorovic	U-46's Deputy Superintendent of Instruction	ISBE Award of Meritorious Service	School Administrator
Rafael Martinez-Ortiz	Associate principal at Dream Academy	ISBE Award of Special Recognition	School Administrator
Jose Mora	World Languages and Dual Credit teacher at South Elgin High School	ISBE Award of Special Recognition	Classroom Teacher
Angela Rojas	Early childhood teacher at Independence Center for Early Learning	ISBE Award of Special Recognition	Classroom Teacher

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School District U-46 serves families in 11 communities: Bartlett, Elgin, Hanover Park, South Elgin, Streamwood and Wayne, as well as portions of

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Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and West Chicago. In total, the District encompasses 90 square miles within the Fox River Valley, approximately 45 minutes west of downtown Chicago, and includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. Nearly 34,000 preschoolers through 12th graders attend the 55 District schools and programs. To learn more, visit the U-46 [website](#), or like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).