

Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter



April 17, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Earlier this spring, School District U-46 selected [Alignment Collaborative for Education](#) (Alignment) as our Elgin Area Chamber Business Partner of the Year. Alignment has been an essential U-46 partner for learning for almost a decade. As the Executive Director of Alignment, Nancy Coleman has been instrumental in supporting our Post-Secondary goals in U-46.

On average, Alignment serves almost 10,000 students a year, a number that has doubled multiple times since our partnership began. Alignment works tirelessly to identify and organize community volunteers to create partnerships with over 200 businesses and community organizations to provide post-secondary and workplace readiness experiences for U-46 students. These organizations come together to provide work-based learning experiences to support Career and Technical Education offerings and Magnet School Programming in each of the five high schools.

Alignment also provides essential assistance to students and parents as they successfully transition from middle school to high school. As part of U-46's Educational Pathways model offering students and parents the opportunity for quality, career exploration experiences. The largest event is our annual [Explore](#) event. Alignment's goal is to serve 12,000 students in the 2025-2026 school year.

We greatly appreciate the partnership with Alignment and look forward to our future work!

It's a great day to learn in U-46!

Dr. Suzanne Johnson



Kudos

Note: We enjoy seeing the recognition and respect among our U-46 Team through the [Kudos submitted](#) in each issue of the Superintendent's Weekly. In an effort to further recognize our team members, we will be sharing select Kudos on social media each week under the hashtag #U46StaffKudos. When entering Kudos in Let's Talk, please note if you would prefer to not have your kudos shared on social media. We look forward to continuing to receive your kudos and celebrating them in this new way.

Remember, only Kudos with the sender's name will appear in the Weekly; no anonymous messages. Kudos are due by **5 p.m. each Tuesday**.

Kudos to Austin Book, from Lisa Baran Janco, both at Streamwood High School

A huge thank you to Austin Book, ELA and theater teacher at Streamwood High School, for creating and directing a Shakespeare Assembly for our freshmen students. We appreciate you for bringing the Bard to the stage at SHS.

Kudos to Ashley Patyk from the Spring Trail ILP Team - Tania Foertsch-Bays, Kristina Paul, Maggie Steber, and Jenaya Stuby

We can't thank Ashley enough for all she does for our ILP students. She always goes above and beyond to ensure they have what they need on a daily basis. She also has gone out of her way to

ensure we have our CBI trip lunches with short notice. Thank you so much for everything!

Kudos to Dr. Angel S. Brooks, from Catherine Fletcher, both at Heritage Elementary School

To the absolute best Assistant Principal there is, Dr. Angel S. Brooks! We appreciate all that you do for us each and everyday. Your touch on all our Eagles is inspiring! You are welcoming, informative and focused on supporting students and staff. We love you, Dr. Brooks!

Kudos to Jesus Reyes and Maria Ortiz, from Erin Bryant, all at Centennial Elementary School

Thanks to Jesus and Maria, the night custodians with HES at Centennial, for assisting with our PTC Meeting and the Books and BINGO events we had last week. When I had a request, you dropped everything to assist me and for that I am truly grateful. Your help made both events run smoothly. Thank you so much!

Kudos to Ginny Simons, at Spring Trail Elementary School, from Noelle Dupis and Staff at Spring Trail Elementary School

Ginny Simons may be new to the team here at Spring Trail, but she has already made a big impact. She's been an incredible resource for our teachers, paraeducators, and most importantly, our students. We're so grateful for her expertise, especially in supporting behavioral needs and helping students thrive in mainstream settings.

And we're not the only ones who've noticed her talent. A huge shout-out to Ginny for being recognized by the SEED Faculty at NIU as an Outstanding Graduate Student. She has been awarded the prestigious Accepting the Challenge Award, which is a true testament to her dedication and excellence. Congratulations, Ginny! We're so proud of you!

Kudos to Claire Ditchman, in Information Services from Linda Heyden, in Human Resources

Thank you to Claire for helping my husband reset his passwords. Claire is always willing to assist whenever there are any technical issues at the front reception as well. She also asks if there is anything we need even when we do not request it which is greatly appreciated.

Kudos to Erin Gamble, from Amanda Leatherby, both in Specialized Student Services

Erin Gamble, the lead orthopedic itinerant teacher, has been a strong leader and advocate for the dynamic and effective orthopedic itinerant team. She actively supports the growth and development of both her students and her team, which continues to grow! I want to thank Erin for her leadership.

Special recognition also goes to Ashley Raimondi and Stephanie Axelsen, who complete this incredible team. We appreciate their collective focus on positive student outcomes.

Kudos to our Incredible Social Worker Leads, Mary Abbot and Kim Neilson, from Amanda Leatherby, in Specialized Student Services

Mary and Kim are always available to support their fellow social workers across buildings, offering guidance and a listening ear. They navigate district crises with calm leadership, empathy, and responsiveness that make a difference for students and staff affected. They also work diligently to recruit and hire new social workers, ensuring students have access to the support they need from day one. We are so grateful for their commitment and steady leadership.

Kudos to Plant Operations, Grounds, and Nick Corn, from Catherine Fletcher and Dr. Angel Brooks, both at Heritage Elementary School

A huge thank you to all. We are incredibly grateful for our new playground. It is greatly appreciated and our Eagles were so excited. Thank you so much!



School District U-46

