



Tony Sanders, Chief Executive Officer

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U-46.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 13, 2019

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U-46 Honors Top Graduates and Student Support Personnel of the Year

Board recognizes top two percent of graduating seniors

ELGIN - The School District U-46 Board of Education Monday night will host the "Top Two Percent" ceremony at South Elgin High School to honor the academic success and accomplishments of graduating seniors. The students are the top-achieving graduates from the District's five comprehensive high schools and are featured on the U-46 website in the District's [Class of 2019 section](#).

Also Monday, the Board of Education will recognize Karen Osborne, a social worker at Fox Meadow Elementary School in South Elgin, for recently being named the 2019 Kane County Student Support Personnel of the Year award. Mrs. Osborne, a U-46 alum who graduated from Streamwood High School in 1981, has worked in U-46 for more than 30 years. She began her career as a social worker in 1988, and has worked at several U-46 elementary and middle schools. She has been at Fox Meadow Elementary since 2016.

"Every day I see her go above and beyond what is expected of her with both students and staff," said Fox Meadow Principal Sjoukje Brown. "She is frequently sought out by students and has a line outside her door every morning and afternoon with kids who want to say hello or goodbye."

Mrs. Osborne said she decided to pursue a career in social work based on her own experience with a social worker when she was a high school student. After experiencing the loss of her father, a social worker offered to help her process her grief. She was very appreciative of someone going out of their way to ask her about her father and realized she wanted to do the same and be a sounding board for children. She earned her master's degree



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in social work from the University of Illinois at Chicago and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

"I tell the students that my job is to help out them, parents, and teachers with any kind of problems that they are having," Mrs. Osborne said. "There is nothing so awful you can't tell someone and everyone has a right to feel safe all of the time."

Mrs. Osborne meets with students in classrooms, small groups, and individually to support their social-emotional and behavioral goals. This year she is piloting a new curriculum that teaches students resiliency.

"When you can connect with a student as young as five years old and see them using strategies that you taught them to calm themselves, it is amazing," Osborne said.

The Kane County Regional Office of Education hosts the annual Educator of the Year banquet to recognize and celebrate educators within the region. School districts, staff, and administrators nominate exceptional individuals who demonstrate a love for learning and a commitment to education. The May 3 event marked the 44th Kane County Educator of the Year banquet.

The Board of Education will recognize Mrs. Osborne with an "Accent on Achievement" certificate during the 6 p.m. special Board Meeting in the auditorium at South Elgin High School, 760 E. Main St., South Elgin.

Following the awarding of an Accent on Achievement to Mrs. Osborne, the Board of Education will honor the students who have finished in the top two percent of their graduating class.

"Congratulations to our top two percent of the Class of 2019," Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools Instruction and Equity Lela Majstorovic said. "We are proud of their dedication to academic achievement



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and grateful to the teachers, friends, and family who have supported them as they achieve this milestone.”

The top two percent of graduating seniors are as follows:

Bartlett High School

Aakash Nagarapu
Aaron Farabaugh
Amy Chen
Harsh Chheda
Nimesh Tailor
Rohan Shah
Rushi Patel
Tessa Wanthal
Theresa Videckis
Zain Sattar

Elgin High School

Caroline Kaczmarek
Guadalupe Chavez
Joshua Placko
Kyle Coates
Lauren Dimayuga
Riya Kumar
Shrinal Patel
Simona Simeonova
Viseth Som

Larkin High School

Caroline Przywara
Emily Crawford
Jordan Kosin
Kassia Lesiewicz
Kevin Duffy



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Noa Greenfeld
Scarlett Ford

South Elgin High School

Abigail Culloton
Bridget Bondi
Carli Allen
Hannah Anderson
Jace Warrick
MacKenzie Molina
Madeline Kordecki
Madison Caliendo
Nicole Allen
Sara Pfeil
Sarah Boghossian

Streamwood High School

Anna Rataj
Brianna Yi
Jakub Adamek
Marcos Villarreal
Mary Chung
Nicole Rataj
Nikky Jordan
Victoria Bajorek
William Morgan

WHO: Top two percent of graduating seniors and their families.

WHAT: The top two percent of seniors from the five comprehensive high schools will be recognized for their academic achievements.

WHERE: South Elgin High School auditorium (enter door marked "auditorium"), 760 E. Main St., South Elgin.



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WHEN: Reception is at 5:30 p.m. and the program begins at 6 p.m.
Monday, May 13.

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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 Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and West Chicago. In total, the District encompasses 90 square miles within the Fox River Valley and includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. Nearly 39,000 pre-K through twelfth graders attend the 57 District schools and programs. To learn more, visit the U-46 [website](#), or like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).