



RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY**POLICY ISSUE/SITUATION**

Tonight, the District recognizes the following individuals for their outstanding achievement and contribution to the Beaverton School District and the community. The following recognitions exemplify the Pillars of Excellence and Collaboration.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**WE Expect Excellence: Marvel Studios STEM Challenge – Divya Amirtharaj**

Congratulations to Divya Amirtharaj, junior at Westview High School, who was named the Grand Prize winner of the Marvel Studios Thor Ragnarok Superpower of STEM Challenge held in Burbank, California.

[Marvel Studios Thor Ragnarok Superpower of STEM](#) Challenge invites girls nationwide, ages 15 to 18 in grades 10 through 12, to use the superpower of STEM for good by creating and sharing an original do-it-yourself project that could help their family, their community, or the world be safer, healthier, or happier.

Divya created an app that allows visually impaired individuals to interact with the world around them. Divya attended an immersive three-day mentorship in New York City to build her STEM story, creating a professional-level video teaching other young people how to recreate her Challenge winning project. She walked the red carpet at the world premiere of Marvel Studios' Thor Ragnarok and had the opportunity to demonstrate her Superpower of STEM project live to the nation with a brief appearance on [Good Morning America](#).

Congratulations, Divya and good luck in all your future endeavors!

WE Expect Excellence: OAVSNP Excellent Teaching Award – Steve Baer

Congratulations to Transition teacher Steve Baer who was recognized by the Oregon Association of Vocational Support Needs Personnel (OACSNP) with their Excellent Teaching Award. The award recognizes individuals that inspire, educate, and empower transition across Oregon.

In his nomination, Todd Nicholson, Administrator for Special Programs wrote: "Steve is a natural leader and continually strives to advance the field of transition services toward a system that works for everyone - especially students with disabilities who have historically been underserved and marginalized. Steve has made significant contributions toward enhancing post-school success for students by successfully identifying and proposing curriculum modifications to help students better understand their needs.

Steve's community advocacy for people with disabilities reaches beyond the school day and is unparalleled in our region. With determination and tenacity, Steve has organized a multi-agency effort to screen a documentary film with the end goal of increasing job opportunities for all people with disabilities –not just our students.

The Beaverton School District recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups. It is the policy of the Beaverton School District that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, marital status, age, veterans' status, genetic information or disability in any educational programs, activities or employment.

Without a doubt, Steve is a leader within the Community Transition Program *and* Beaverton School District.

Congratulations, Steve!

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the School Board recognize Divya Amirtharaj and Steve Baer.