



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	February 6, 2025
<b>Agenda Item:</b>	Recognitions
<b>Item Type:</b>	Board Recognitions
<b>Administrator:</b>	Bret Champion, Natalie Hurd
<b>Objective:</b>	Recognition of Super Positive Video Contest winner, Oregon School Counselor of the Year, National Girls Basketball Coach of the Year, and Student Math Achievement.

**Background:** There are many outstanding students and staff in the Medford School District, and the Medford School District Board of Directors takes time in each regularly scheduled Board meeting to celebrate many of them. Students may be recognized for a variety of areas, including academics, athletics, arts, career and technical education, and music, or as nominated by school district staff. Staff members may also be nominated for exemplary contributions to the district.

Tonight, we celebrate:

### **Super Positive Video Contest Winner - Lillian Hills**

This contest, put on by Josephine County Prevention and KOBİ, was an opportunity for 15 to 18-year-olds to win scholarship awards by creating uplifting messages of hope to help spread positivity throughout Southern Oregon and Northern California.

[The winning video](#), from Lillian Hills of South Medford High School, debuted during the NFL Divisional playoff game on NBC5 on Sunday, January 19, 2025.

Lillian's Public Service Announcement, titled "Keep Smiling," is an attention-getting spot about kindness and presented entirely in sign language. There is no sound. It's a remarkable production that breaks through the clutter.

### **Oregon School Counselor of the Year - Briana Meyer**

Briana Meyer is known for her leadership in her building and throughout the district. She built an ASCA-aligned school counseling program at Hedrick Middle School which has been adopted at other schools in the district. Briana has implemented numerous interventions - including small groups, a peer mediation program and one-on-one targeted meetings - to reduce students' social anxiety, provide academic support, explore and prepare for careers, and help build peer relationship skills. She has also collaborated with middle school and high school counselors across the district to create supportive and seamless transitions for all middle school students, and she is a Crisis Prevention Trainer for the District.

## **National Section 8 Girls Basketball Coach of the Year - Tom Cole**

South Medford High School's Lady Panthers basketball program has long been a symbol of excellence, and much of its success is credited to Head Coach Tom Cole. Recognized for his remarkable contributions to high school athletics and his impact on the community, Coach Cole has been named the 2023-24 Section 8 Girls Basketball Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

This prestigious honor highlights Coach Cole's exceptional leadership, philosophy of coaching, and his lifetime commitment to shaping athletes both on and off the court. Nominated by the Oregon School Activities Association, Coach Cole was selected based on his team's performance during the 2023-24 season, as well as his contributions to the community and the sport.

Coach Cole's achievements in basketball are extraordinary. Under his leadership, the Lady Panthers have transformed from a struggling program into a powerhouse. When he took over the program, the team had a 1-48 record. Within five years, the Lady Panthers won their first state championship, became nationally ranked, and made history as the only team in Oregon's large-school classification to finish a season with a perfect 30-0 record.

## **Student Math Achievement**

We will honor four of our eighth-grade students for their exceptional progress in mathematics.

Andrew Anderson  
Oakdale Middle School

Logan Nunes  
Hedrick Middle School

Zaadin Kerr  
Ruch Outdoor Community School

Sakaria Reed  
McLoughlin Middle School