



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	June 5, 2025
<b>Agenda Item:</b>	Recognitions
<b>Item Type:</b>	Board Recognitions
<b>Administrator:</b>	Bret Champion
<b>Objective:</b>	MSD/RCC Early College Connections - SMHS Student Achievement, Oregon Excellence in Teaching English Language Arts Award, and Appreciation for Board Director Suzanne Messer

**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:

### **MSD/RCC Early College Connections - SMHS Student Achievement**

Jamie Murphy graduated this year from South Medford with a high school diploma, and will also be graduating on June 14 from Rogue Community College with an Associate of Science in computer science, with honors.

### **2025 Oregon Excellence in Teaching English Language Arts Award**

Kim Neiswanger has been selected as the winner of the 2025 Oregon Excellence in Teaching English Language Arts Award. The Oregon Council of Teachers of English - sponsored award recognizes an educator who has created a particularly noteworthy record in teaching the English Language Arts.

Her nominator, Southern Oregon University Professor Margaret Perrow, highlighted her dedication, compassion, and innovation. She praised Kim's commitment to learning and leadership in support of all the children she teaches. Additionally, she recognized her for her willingness to share her expertise at OCTE conferences, participation in SOU panels and presentations at the Oregon Association of Teacher Educators conferences, the Holistic Teaching and Learning conference, and Literary Ashland. She also noted Kim's outstanding project-based literacy teaching, featured in a WestEd/ODE webinar helping teachers implement the new Early Literacy Framework.

### **Appreciation for Board Director Suzanne Messer**

We extend our sincere gratitude to Director Messer for her dedicated service on the Board since July 1, 2017. Throughout her tenure, Director Messer has exemplified a steadfast commitment to collaboration, student success, and staff appreciation. Her focus on ensuring that every student graduates high school with a clear pathway to college or career has significantly contributed to the advancement of our district's vision. We are deeply appreciative of her leadership and enduring efforts to support the future of all students.