

## **May Heart at Work Employee of the Month**

Keller ISD's Heart at Work Employee of the Month for May 2026 is Quincy Luper, a STARS teacher at Caprock Elementary School. Quincy was nominated by KISD Special Education Coordinator Danielle Stevens, who shared the following:

*I just wanted to take a moment to truly thank Mr. Luper for the heart you've shown this year. Your willingness to accept a special student exactly as she is has made such a meaningful difference in her life. The work you've put into building her skills, supporting her growth, collaborating with others, and advocating for what she needs has not gone unnoticed. Because of you, she has been able to develop strong roots. You created a space where she felt safe, supported, and capable, and that allowed her to grow. She is walking into next year with more skills, more prepared, and set up for success because of the foundation you've built with her. I'm so grateful she had the opportunity to be in your class this year. Thank you for the impact you've made, not just academically, but in who she is becoming. You make a difference every day.*

## **Star Educator Award Recognition**

Keller ISD's final Star Educator Award for the 25-26 school year is being presented to Kyndel McAdoo, a social studies teacher at Central High School. She was nominated by KISD Social Studies Coordinator Erica Parnell, who highlighted the following:

*Kyndel has made an immediate and lasting impact in her first year in the district. Teaching both World Geography and U.S. History, she brings energy, creativity, and purpose to the classroom, using hands-on and interactive strategies to help students engage with challenging content and build confidence.*

*Beyond her classroom, Kyndel has stepped into a leadership role within her department, supporting her World Geography team, fostering collaboration, and uplifting colleagues through encouragement and recognition. Known for her positivity, compassion, and dedication, she inspires both her students and peers, embodying the spirit of an outstanding educator.*

## **State VASE Achievements**

Two KISD students were awarded Gold Seals in the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA) Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE), the equivalent of a state championship in visual art. This remarkable achievement places their work among the top entries submitted from across the state. Out of a staggering 32,456 entries submitted at the regional level, only 2,152 students advanced to state. Of those, 1,498 earned a rating of 4, the highest designation for exemplary work. From this already elite group, just 150 students were awarded the coveted Gold Seal, a true mark of artistic excellence. Congratulations to all of this year's State qualifiers:

### **Central High School**

Arianna Meyers

*Kelsey DeLong, Art Teacher*

Ben Coon, Ruby Macnab, and Dalia Ruiz

*Clint Riddle, Art Teacher*

### **Fossil Ridge High School**

Taylor Dickens, Serenity Martin, and Ash Sanchez

*Bridget Arora, Art Teacher*

Loi Bui

*Vicky Fashbaugh Art Teacher*

Da'Jon Smith  
*Elizabeth Maldonado, Art Teacher*

Maeen Ababneh  
*Clarissa Valdez, Art Teacher*

**Keller Collegiate Academy**

Dylan Tran  
*Josh Boyd, Principal*

**Keller High School**

Niharika Panamparambath Ajai and Morgan Merrell  
*Alexa Kidwell, Art Teacher*

Mahi Busireaddy, Mollie Cheng, Joseph Cilurzo, Sofia Gomez, Ariana Hernandez, and Frieda Kahl  
*Chris Stickel, Art Teacher*

Anelisse Guerra Martinez *\*Gold Seal Designation*

Abby Merrill *\*Gold Seal Designation*

Andrew Beavers, Aditi Modi, Valeigh Morse, Sophie Myrick, Christy Park, and Tyler Proffer  
*Kerri Mullin, Art Teacher*

**Timber Creek High School**

Alina Berry, Sophia David, Ashtyn McNutt, and Jihyun Nam  
*Kim Garza, Art Teacher*

Isabel Clark, Paige Conway  
Emerson Heath Fryar, Hudson Hua, and Frankie Weatherred  
*Chrissy Langley, Art Teacher*

Gwyn Foster  
*Carey McNutt, Art Teacher*

Julieta Garzon Castrillon  
*Adam Lancaster, Art Teacher*

**State Athletic Achievements**

**Keller High School Soccer**

The Keller High School girls varsity soccer team competed in their first-ever UIL Class 6A Division 1 State Championship on April 11 in Georgetown, TX, after defeating Sachse in the State Semifinal.

Ava Johnston	Sophia Ruiz	Leah Thompson	Katelyn Prichard
Paxten Parker	Mikayla Simpson	Tatum Thompson	Kaliah Nkrumah
Claire Garritson	Ellie Hatfield	Giulianna LaPuma	Cam Drewry
Kendall Boehmer	Mariela Lopez	Leah Pritchard	Hayden Gonzales
Camille Whitmire	Lyla DePalma	Riley Hewitt	Emma Abate
Ava Itzkowitz	Caroline Kraftson	Billie Davis	Holly Hedrick
Betsy Kauchak	Ella Gutierrez	Sawyer Lubahn	Adelina Ukperaj

Jade Garcia, Student Trainer

*Kamden Phillips, Athletic Trainer*

*Coaches: Jeffrey Simpson, Brittany Cottrell, M'Leigha Jones, Mario Carmona*

### **CHS, FRHS, KHS, & TCHS Powerlifting**

Thirteen powerlifters from Keller ISD competed in the Texas High School Powerlifting Association State Championship on March 27-28 in Abilene, TX. Timber Creek High School made program history, earning its first team trophy with a fourth-place finish in its debut season competing in the unequipped division at the state meet. Individually, Timber Creek's Jamal Bolden, Andon Ace Akins, and Nathan Giddens each earned third-place finishes in their respective weight classes, while Anthony Shipley placed fifth in the 220-pound division. Congratulations to all of this year's State competitors:

#### **Central High School**

Isaac Perez, Rikki Deere, Collin Reed, and Mackenzae Calumno  
*Erik McGuffin, Coach*

#### **Fossil Ridge High School**

Michael Reinosheik  
*Michael Ibrahim, Coach*

#### **Keller High School**

Jacob Smith, Thomas Huerta, and Seth Payne  
*Scott Reynolds, Coach*

#### **Timber Creek High School**

Jamal Bolden, Andon Ace Akins, Nathan Giddens, Anthony Shipley, and Collin Bruce  
*Matthew Martin, Coach*

### **Keller High School Golf**

Keller High School senior Gable Roach qualified as a medalist for the UIL 6A State Golf Tournament after finishing tied for fifth overall at the regional tournament. He competed at the UIL Class 6A State Tournament on April 27-28 in Whitney, Texas.  
*Clay Jackson, Coach*

### **Central High School Tennis**

Zeus Andre Celedonio and Anushka Sanap of Central High School earned a trip to the UIL 6A State Tennis Championships after a strong showing in mixed doubles at the Region 1 tournament, earning a trip to the UIL 6A State Tennis Championships on May 7-8 in San Antonio, TX.  
*Amy St. Ama, Coach*