



# District 97 Celebrations

May 2024





# Staff Appreciation Week

## May 6-10, 2024

Principals and PTOs annually come up with creative ways to thank our staff for their contributions. This year each of our schools and central office also received funds dedicated to creating a positive and inclusive team culture in D97, including supporting celebrating staff last week.



*Thank  
you!*







# Annual Recognition

May 2024



**THOSE WHO EXCEL**



**NATIONAL BOARD  
CERTIFIED TEACHERS**



**2024 RETIREES**



# 2024 District 97 “Those Who Excel” Winners



**Arnetta Thompson**  
Teacher  
Award of Excellence



**Dr. Christine Zelaya**  
Administrator  
Award of Excellence



**Tyra Banks**  
Educational Service Personnel  
Award of Special Recognition



**Jessica Baylian**  
Teacher  
Award of Meritorious Service



**Lindsey Kiska**  
Early Career Educator  
Award of Meritorious Service





# D97 National Board Certified Teachers

*We are proud to recognize the dedication and hard work of our teachers who recently achieved or renewed National Board Certification on the Illinois Professional Educator License!*

**NATIONAL BOARD**  
*for Professional Teaching Standards®*

## New National Board Certified Teachers

Christina Bultas  
Heidi Jirka  
Kathryn Keuler  
Catherine Knox  
Todd Leban  
Liza Marinelarena  
George Merriweather  
Elizabeth Niewald  
Lisa Rudin  
Jennifer Russ  
Esther Smith  
Rachel Wheatley  
Jamie Winchell

## Renewed National Board Certified Teachers

Lynda Chrystall  
Jordan DeSanto  
Jennifer Jaros  
John McDowell  
Jeffrey Missman  
Kristiana Murray  
Noelle Parr  
Margaret Poleski  
Megan Rigali  
Meagan Roskos





# D97 Retirees - Class of 2024

**Retiree Video**  
*(click to play)*





# Save the Date!



The annual reception honoring District 97 retirees will be held Tuesday, May 28, prior to our Committee of the Whole Meeting.

We hope to see you there!