



# WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

*Together for Excellence ★ ¡Juntos por la Excelencia!*

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## #D33Pride Awards 2nd Trimester - 2025

The #D33Pride Awards are given to individuals who have significantly impacted the students, staff, and families of the District 33 community. This year, the Recognition Committee added a new category - the Rookie Award for Certified and Classified Staff. Staff members who have worked in the district for at least one year but under three years can be nominated for this award.

Nominations are accepted and presented at the end of each trimester. The members of the Recognition Committee judge the nominations, and winners are selected in each category. All names are removed from the nominations before being given to the committee members for judging. **A total of 10 nominations were submitted for this award cycle.**

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### #D33Pride Certified Staff Winner – JoAnn Nelson

JoAnn Nelson is from Leman Middle School, and was nominated by Kristen Guerrero. She is a dedicated mentor and educator. Her expertise in IEPs, curriculum, and instructional strategies makes her an invaluable resource. She tirelessly supports students, ensuring their success through creative, individualized approaches. JoAnn's impact extends beyond the classroom—her leadership, dedication, and kindness make her a true pillar of the Leman community.

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### #D33Pride Certified “Rookie” Staff Winner – Joey Ruddy

Joey Ruddy is from Leman Middle School, and was nominated by Megan Quintana and Shannon Kennedy. He brings energy, humor, and unwavering support to his students and colleagues. He makes learning engaging, connects lessons to students' lives, and fosters a positive, encouraging classroom. Always willing to lend a hand, Joey has quickly become a valued member of the Leman team.

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### #D33Pride Classified Staff Winner – Lizbeth Garcia

Lizbeth Garcia is from Leman Middle School, and was nominated by Maricela Padilla. She is a dedicated paraprofessional who goes above and beyond to support students. She identifies their needs, adapts materials, and fosters confidence and independence. Her leadership and enthusiasm make her an invaluable asset to both students and staff at Leman.

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### #D33Pride Classified “Rookie” Staff Winner – Ethan Wallace

Ethan Wallace is from Wegner Elementary, and was nominated by Brittany Smith. He is a standout paraprofessional known for his problem-solving skills and dedication. He builds strong relationships with students, motivates them, and ensures they feel supported. Ethan's enthusiasm and commitment have quickly made him a trusted and valued member of the Wegner community.