

# Suzanne Norring – Excellence in Teaching Award

*Nomination Letter from Gretchen Fleming  
Edmonds School District*

I am nominating Suzanne Norring for her excellence in teaching ELs and engaging families at College Place Elementary. College Place is our largest English learning community in the district. I have had the honor of supervising Suzanne in her position as an EL teacher for the past 6 years in Edmonds School District. As an EL teacher, Suzanne goes above and beyond to make our students and families feel engaged in their school. She prepares students for academic and social success and collaborates with families on how to best support their specific needs and questions in their quest to support their students. Suzanne never turns down an opportunity to learn how to better academically support students and also the teachers and para educators in her school. Suzanne attends professional development and encourages staff to attend with her in order to collaborate together on ways to best support English learners during all aspects of their day. She is part of the leadership team in her school and an asset to all aspects of planning on supporting English acquisition for our students. Suzanne frequently mentors our new teachers both in her building and across the district. New teachers feel supported by Suzanne and try their best to emulate many of her teaching and organizational practices. Suzanne commonly seeks out literature and visuals to share with her staff on the newest research on supporting English learners. Suzanne has spent many evenings and summers organizing ways to engage families and students in extended learning opportunities. Suzanne organized an afternoon program for two years supporting students that qualified as refugees access 1:1 tutoring with tutors of the same language. Suzanne for the past 3 years has organized a summer incoming kindergarten jumpstart for English learning students. She gives up her summer weeks to allow for our new students a time to learn English and become comfortable within their new school.

Parents are welcomed on the first day with interpreters to learn about the school in which their child will be attending. Suzanne takes time to meet families and make them feel connected to their new school. Building community is very important to Suzanne. Suzanne understands that coming from a new country can be very intimidating to a student. Suzanne honors students by displaying information from their native country and having them share with other student's aspects of their culture. She allows students to display

pride for their culture in a safe environment. She knows her students well and is able to engage them in learning by using their personal interest on collaboration with acquiring English and academics. Suzanne's is passionate about learning for all students.

She has shown compassion to students across the nation who are being impacted by current events. In my experience a passion for student learning is not something that can be taught.

I feel honored to work and learn alongside Suzanne each day.

*Gretchen Fleming  
Edmonds School District*

To Nominate a deserving colleague for the 2018 Excellence in Teaching Award, visit the Grants, Awards, Scholarships page on the WAESOL website. [www.waesol.org](http://www.waesol.org)