



***The Jeffco Student Engagement Office is excited and honored to announce the recipients for the 2017 Wayne Carle Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Diversity & Inclusion.***

**The Wayne Carle Legacy Award:**

*Terry Elliott, Acting Superintendent, Jeffco Public Schools*

Terry Elliott, has been a supporter of diversity and inclusion and a catalyst for equity in Jeffco schools over the course of his career as a teacher, principal, Chief School Effectiveness Officer, and acting Superintendent. Although many of his actions were public, many people might not be aware of his persistent dedication behind the scenes to lift up the needs of diverse learners within Jeffco Public Schools. Terry has lead Jeffco with his core belief that every student can achieve at high levels given the right supports and that it is our duty as Jeffco staff to provide effective supports and opportunities for every student.

His public leadership in the area of diversity and inclusion was highlighted as the district restructured Alameda 7-12, Jefferson 7-12, Stein Elementary, Emory Elementary, and Sobesky Academy. Terry ensured that all community voices were listened to and respected. This included ensuring that meetings honored languages spoken in the community even to the point of having separate meetings for Spanish speaking families and community members.

Since the inception of the Student Engagement Office, which subsequently became the new home for Jeffco Diversity and Inclusion, Mr. Elliott has been a consistent supporter, partner, and advocate for the work of the office in every way.

There is no doubt that Mr. Elliott's dedication and actions towards educational equity will have a lasting positive impact in Jeffco for years to come and it is the ripples of these actions that are what the Wayne Carle Legacy Award truly represents.

**In the Category of Administrator:**

*Tara Peña, Principal, Oberon Middle School*

Tara Pena is a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion in Jeffco Public Schools as well as in the field of education. She is very active in the Jeffco Public Schools Minority Employee Advisory Committee (MEAC), Colorado Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (CO-ALAS), and Jefferson County Administrators Association (JCAA). Tara doesn't hesitate to share her belief that diversity builds a stronger community, and works to encourage minorities to pursue careers in education.

*Kresta Vuolo, Principal, Free Horizon Montessori*

Kresta has been a champion in fighting for the rights of Free Horizon's LGBTQ community and has made Free Horizon Montessori a safe place for all. She has taken small actions that have had a huge impacts on the school community's inclusiveness. She has lead efforts at Free Horizon on how to meet the needs of students and staff who are gender expansive. Kresta Vuolo has been an outstanding leader for inclusiveness and civil rights.

**In the Category of Licensed Staff:**

*Lindsay Secrest, Teacher, Pomona High School*

Lindsay Secrest has been the spark and the engine behind Pomona High School's annual Diversitypalooza celebration hosted every spring. This is a celebration of culture, talent, language, song, dance, art, cuisine, and individuality. Lindsay organizes this event each year out of her passion for diversity and inclusion, acceptance, and education. Students can participate in a variety of activities. Diversitypalooza provides opportunities for guest speakers, guest artists, and guest performers.

Lindsay is open to talking to any students about anything on their minds. She is also a Pomona graduate!

*Ann Kelly, K-6 ESL Teacher, Shelton Elementary*

Ann Kelly is the ESL teacher at Shelton and has been for 8 years. Ann has built strong relationships with families and ensures students are getting what they need to be successful. The first 7 years, Ann held Diversity Teas monthly for international and/or non-English speaking families to get to know one another, share how they can support their child's education, and learn about the many resources available to them. In addition, with the closing of Pleasant View and half of the families coming to Shelton, she held another Diversity Tea for the Pleasant View families this year to make them feel welcome and share the many opportunities available to them at Shelton. Ann also organizes and orchestrates an annual International Night where all families share their culture and heritage.

**In the Category of Classified Staff:**

*Erika Williams, ESL Tutor, Deane Elementary*

Erika is always welcoming to all families who enter Deane Elementary. She goes above and beyond to learn about each family and share her learning with staff that would need to know in order for the family to feel as comfortable as possible. She has made home visits for special family celebrations and has helped families process through all of the immigration news that has been happening recently. She has also stayed connected to previous students that have moved and continues to support them and be a sense maker to American culture and systems. She always has a smile and approaches as a listener in order to learn and understand.

*Dylan Scholinski, Community Resource Liaison, Jefferson County Open School*

Dylan Scholinski has been the Diversity Liaison at Jeffco Open School for several years. Dylan supports students in the Jeffco Student Voice program where high school students get to collaborate with the superintendent and work to create a sustainable movement for social justice in the school community through compassionate leadership. Dylan is also the founder of Sent(a)Mental Studios, the HAVEN Youth Project, and the Sent(a)Mental Project and also teaches classes that address a reclaiming of creative voice, self empowerment, identifying /working through personal obstacles, while searching for our most authentic selves. Dylan strives to connect students with outside of school learning opportunities - that challenge and inspire their individual passions. Dylan is an "out" transgender employee and teacher and provides support to staff and students within and beyond school.

**In the Category of Student Group/Club:**

*Diversity Forum, Evergreen High School*

The Evergreen High School community might not always be considered the most diverse population. For the purpose of helping Evergreen students to be aware and informed young people, especially with regard to issues related to cultural diversity, a dedicated group of teachers, parents, and students works hard to provide opportunities for students and broaden their perspectives. Led by teacher Chris Corbo and parent Risa Holmes, the Diversity Forum is instrumental in planning and executing community-wide events such as Diversity Day. This year, however, the forum tried something new. They planned and hosted a series of events in support of April as Sexual Harassment Awareness month, including an original performance "*Crossing the Line: Breaking the Silence on Sexual Assault*". This group is worthy of being recognized for their unwavering commitment to promoting cultural diversity and making Evergreen High School a safe and welcoming space for all.

**In the Category of Student:**

*Jasmine Anderson, Conifer High School*

Jasmine is a senior at Conifer High School. She has exceptional behavior in regards to new students of various cultural and national backgrounds. Jasmine, has, on multiple occasions, welcomed new students from different parts of the world with the same level of openness and respect that she would welcome a student from a different part of Colorado. She consistently makes an effort to introduce herself, offer to show students around, and share her kind and bubbly personality. Her actions put students of various backgrounds more at ease with their new surroundings. Whether the new student is a refugee moving to the United States or a visiting cultural exchange student, Miss Anderson never fails to exude a "You are welcomed here because you are a human, and that is how humans treat one another" attitude which displays maturity beyond her years.

**In the Category of Community Group:**

*Mitchell Elementary PTA Diversity and Equity Committee*

For the past several years Jane Hampleman and Rochelle Beaupre have turned what was a small event for international families at Mitchell Elementary into a must-attend event for all families at the school. The school has a number of families from all over the world and on this night they showcase their culture and nationality. Families can host a booth with information, food, games, etc highlighting their heritage. The committee pays to bring in outside music and dance groups from around the area to perform traditional songs and dances. Past performers have included Indian, German, Native American, Mexican, Pacific Islander and many other groups. It is a wonderful, family event that celebrates Mitchell Elementary's diversity as a community.

*South Lakewood and Kendrick Lakes PTA and Intercultural Fair Committee*

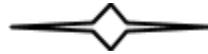
For the past few years, the South Lakewood Elementary and Kendrick Lakes Communities have collaborated to host an annual Intercultural Fair. The event is coordinated by the Intercultural Fair Committee and celebrates many cultures through food, dance, art and more. The fair provides a rich cultural experience for students and community members of all ages. It also strengthens partnerships between schools and the broader community. This community collaboration deserves this award for embracing and celebrating diversity in such a broad and welcoming way.

**In the Category of Parent:**

*Tanya Two Two, Parent Leader, South Lakewood Elementary*

Every Wednesday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for the last four years, Tanya Two Two has donated her time to the Jeffco Public Schools - Title VI Indian Education

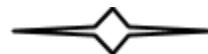
after-school program. She is always the first person to arrive, help set up the classroom, serve students snacks, and assist with homework help and cultural art projects. The students look to her as their “aunt” because she does far more than just show up. She accepts students for who they are and what they bring to the program at that exact moment. She shares her presence with our Indigenous youth. She is a parent leader, mentor, and demonstrates the stability that lives within the leadership of Indigenous Women. She is the parent ‘rock’ for South Lakewood’s Afterschool program. The Indian Education staff and students say, "We can count on her."



## *Wayne Carle Awards*

*In 1940 a group of grubby 10 year old campers, on their way back from a week in the mountains, could hardly wait for their promised swim at the local country club. They lined up eagerly at the entrance to the fenced club and began to enter. One of the campers Mary Ota, an Asian American, was stopped and told she could not enter. Without saying a word, her fellow campers all turned around and got back on the bus, their eyes filled with tears at the affront to their friend. One of those campers was ten year old Wayne Carle. Since that incident so many years ago, Dr. Wayne Carle, former Superintendent of Jeffco Schools, has remained devoted to promoting cultural understanding and respect. His impetus for this work generated the Wayne Carle Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Diversity and Equity in Jefferson County Public Schools.*

*The Wayne Carle Awards are presented to individuals for outstanding contributions to diversity and equity in Jeffco Public Schools. The awards are named for retired Jeffco Superintendent, Dr. Wayne Carle, and reflect Jeffco's desire to promote cultural understanding and respect.*



*Recipients were nominated by Jeffco staff, students, and community members. The Wayne Carle Awards are presented to individuals for outstanding contributions to diversity and equity in Jeffco Public Schools. The awards are named for retired Jeffco Superintendent, Dr. Wayne Carle, and reflect Jeffco's desire to promote cultural understanding and respect.*

*Recipients will be honored at the Board of Education meeting on June 1, 2017. Please contact Simone McLaughlin in the Student Engagement Office for further information about the awards ceremony and reception. 303-982-6559 or [smclaugh@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:smclaugh@jeffco.k12.co.us).*

***The Story Of The Wayne Carle Logo:***

*The beautiful new logo for the Wayne Carle Awards was created by the talented artist Kristina Bad Hand. Ms. Bad Hand has also served the Jeffco community as a Liaison for the Jeffco Indian Education Program.*

*The apple is representative of knowledge, health, and diversity. The ripples on the apple symbolize 'the ripple effect' represented in the story of Dr. Wayne Carle. The ripples also add shades to represent diversity in many different tones but all with the same core. The leaves are a beautiful symbol of growth on many levels across our Jeffco Community and the hands represent the many stakeholders in the Jeffco Community. Each hand holds the Jeffco star and creates a link to traditions of this award.*