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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Chugiak teacher named American Star of Teaching

JUNEAU – Bobbi Jo Erb, an eighth-grade math teacher at Mirror Lake Middle School in Chugiak, has been named Alaska's 2008 No Child Left Behind American Star of Teaching by the U.S. Department of Education.

Donna Foxley, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings' regional representative, presented the award on September 16 at Mirror Lake Middle School in the Anchorage School District.

Erb, who is chairperson the school's math department, has been described as a "tireless worker in the classroom and on school and fiscal committees," an "inspiring role model for teachers, students, parents, and community members," and a teacher "who uses humor, compassion, and genuine appreciation of all students while presenting her engaging mathematics lessons."

Erb has embraced technology in ways that have captured her students' imagination and interest, Foxley said. Erb uses a Smart Board computer projection to deliver interactive lessons, has pioneered podcasting her lessons, and regularly places video segments on her school website to assist parents.

"Teachers like Bobbi Jo Erb combine a passion for teaching with high expectations that every child can learn," Secretary Spellings said.

"Every school day there are great successes in Alaska's classrooms," said Alaska Education Commissioner Larry LeDoux. "Teachers, paraprofessionals and principals draw their true reward from the quiet but powerful satisfaction that wells up in us when we see a child's smile ignite when they master a new skill or concept. We feel the same when a child returns to our classrooms, sometimes many years later, to share heartfelt gratitude for their personal growth. It is also a great professional satisfaction to learn that one of our peers has been officially recognized for her dedication to the achievement and success of children. We don't always take time to appreciate dedicated, inspiring teachers. I congratulate Bobbi Jo Erb, who represents the best of public education."

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Started in 2004, the American Stars of Teaching is part of the U.S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative, which includes regional and district workshops, roundtables for educators, regular e-mail updates, and digital learning.

The U.S. Department of Education's web site on the program is at <http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/index.html>.

For more information at the U.S. Department of Education: Jane Glickman or Stephanie Babyak at 202-401-1576; Mirror Lake Middle School can be reached at 907-742-3500.

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