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Dear Elmora School No. 12 Families,

The Governor's Educator of the Year Program highlights educational innovation, student achievement, exemplary teaching, and important services outside the classroom environment that lead to student success. This celebratory program recognizes our state's best teachers and educational services professionals who will be recognized at the Union County Office of Education.

We are proud to announce that the 2019 Governor's Teacher of the Year for Elmora School No. 12 was awarded to Mrs. Lauren Depp. Mrs. Depp, currently a fifth grade teacher, fell in love with teaching and learning as a world language teacher for 13 years. In September 2015, Lauren was diagnosed with Lymphoma, for which she took a two-year absence to focus on her health, leaving her School No. 12 family devastated. Mrs. Depp showed she is a fighter, returning to School No. 12 full time in September 2017, with a focus on instilling her students with the importance of compassion, patience, and resilience. Lauren resumed her work stronger with many creative ideas to help promote a positive school culture, while establishing remarkable relationships with her students and their parents. As AVID Coordinator, in 2018, Mrs. Depp helped lead Elmora School No. 12 to become the first and only urban school in New Jersey to be named an AVID National Demonstration School. Lauren reminds her students every day to take risks and stand for what they believe in. She is a true role model of when things do not go your way, to think positive, set high goals, and, no matter what, keep going.

This year's Educational Service Provider of the year for Elmora School No. 12 was awarded to Ms. Anne Gaczynski. Mrs. Gaczynski has been teaching children for over 42 years. As a little girl, she remembers being very timid and having very little confidence, but often thinks of her fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Meyers, who encouraged her to feel secure and positive of who she was. Today, Mrs. Gaczynski emulates these traits daily as a reading interventionist. Mrs. Gaczynski has a natural ability to help struggling readers to read with self-assurance and instill a love for reading. Her goal is to make her students feel success the way Mrs. Meyers did for her.

Please join us in celebrating these two amazing professionals for the work they have done, and continue to do, for our school community and district.

Sincerely,

Melissa Kulick

Elmora School No. 12