

**Golden Apple Award
Laura Norton
March 2, 2009**

Laura Norton's position as secretary at Homer Flex School entails much more than her job title indicates. Due to the alternative nature of the school and its small environment, she often is called upon for her skills as a problem solver, crisis manager and bridge to community resources.

Principal Karen Wessel said, "Laura knows what to do and how to do it, always putting the student first as she makes important decisions. Her compassion is clear and her good boundaries allow her love to be tough. This is so important to the success of our students."

Mrs. Norton's interactions with parents are professional and encouraging, and as a Homer Citizen of the Year award recipient, Mrs. Norton brings her positive community interactions to the Homer Flex program.

As the new computer accounting system went into effect, Mrs. Norton again proved her efficiency in learning and competence at adapting to new challenges, and served as a valuable resource in helping others make the transition. She takes a leadership role without hesitation whenever necessary in the school, and is just as willing to lend her support to whatever needs emerge.

"Laura is the consummate professional, excellent in our alternative community and excellent among her professionals," Wessel said. "Her skills as a secretary and an administrative assistant continue to make my job and the jobs of our staff members work; without her abilities, our team would be considerably hampered."

We, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education, are proud to recognize Laura Norton for being a constant source of support and excellence in the alternative school environment.