



Contact: Pegge Erkeneff
[Communications Specialist](#)
907.714.8888
Fax: 907.262.5867
Pegge@kpbsd.org

148 N. Binkley
Soldotna, AK 99669
www.KPBSD.k12.ak.us

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Seward High School educator receives prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Soldotna, June 12, 2012—President Obama honors KPBSD educator Ms. Stephanie Cronin as one of 97 mathematics and science teachers nationwide who will receive the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Cronin is one of two Alaska educators selected to receive this prestigious award. In a June 11, 2012, press release, President Obama said, “These teachers are the best of the best, and they stand as excellent examples of the kind of leadership we need in order to train the next generation of innovators and help this country get ahead.”

After learning she was the recipient of the Presidential award, Cronin said, “I’m humbled and honored. There are a lot of amazing teachers.” The truth is that Cronin had not planned on being a mathematics teacher. In fact, when her high school math teacher told her, “You will become a high school math teacher,” her reply was, “No way!” She initially attended college to study fine arts and economics, and went to work in corporate business. During an interview for a job she wanted and wasn’t offered, she was told, “You don’t fit in a cubicle.” Those words caused her to remember Mr. Sellnow’s words from her Hopkins High School mathematics class that she had never forgotten.

Seward High School principal Trevan Walker said, “We have a great math teacher who is also a reform leader. Her philosophy of PMA (Positive Math Attitude) engages students in mathematics. Her students truly love her and want to learn.”

Superintendent Steve Atwater said, “All of us at KPBSD are thrilled to learn that Ms. Cronin is being recognized in this way. I have observed Stephanie teach on several occasions and have always been impressed by her instruction. The most telling indicator of her effectiveness is how well Ms. Cronin’s students respond to her teaching; they are always engaged in the lesson and are at ease asking questions or seeking help outside of class.”

Cronin will travel to Washington, DC, June 27-29, 2012, to accept the Presidential Award, meet other educators, and visit with members of Congress and the Administration. High school students in Seward will learn PMA when they return to the classroom in August.

Link:

White House Press Release, June 11, 2012: [“President Obama Honors Outstanding Math and Science Teachers”](#)

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KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-FOUR DIVERSE SCHOOLS

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