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**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

# NEWS RELEASE

## *KPBSD 2016 BP Teacher of the Year*

**Soldotna, May 6, 2016—Sharon Hopkins, first grade teacher at Tustumena Elementary School in Kasilof, Alaska, is the Kenai BP Teacher of the Year and the winner of a \$1,500 continuing education grant.**

“I am inspired by the children in my classroom,” said Sharon Hopkins. “When first graders become confident readers it changes them. Every year I’m rewarded with this process when each student blossoms into a reader. Plus, I’m always appreciative that I’m a teacher at Tustumena Elementary as I work with a talented, inspiring staff that does whatever it takes to educate and enrich the lives of our children.”



“This year’s nominees were again, an excellent representation of our staff as a whole,” said Sean Dusek, superintendent. “They are humble, hard-working and student-centered. I was particularly impressed with how all of the finalists have gone the extra mile for their students and make sure every student they work with know that they are loved. Mrs. Hopkins truly exemplifies what we expect from all of our teachers. She holds high expectations for all of her students, helps every student meet those expectations, makes sure parents are engaged, and truly cares about the individual student beyond academics. She is a gem who has positively impacted hundreds of children in her career and this award is very well deserved!”

A teacher for 23 years, she has taught generations of families. One parent describes her as animated in class, excited about the subject matter, and that excitement is contagious, stating: “She is patient and kind while also being firm. These are young children in first grade, six and seven years old. But she communicates with them as mature little people, and they rise to the standard she sets for them.” Because it is so evident that she cares for her students, they want to please her, whether that means doing a good job on a project or behaving well in class.

### Links

KPBSD BP Teachers of Excellence webpage  
Profiles of [KPBSD 2016 BP Teachers of Excellence](http://www.bpteachers.com)  
<http://www.bpteachers.com>

### KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-FOUR DIVERSE SCHOOLS

The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to develop productive, responsible citizens who are prepared to be successful in a dynamic world.

ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK PORT GRAHAM  
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**FOR RELEASE MAY 6, 2016**

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