

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## **Chaparral High School's Kristy Baumgartner Named 9Teachers Who Care Award Winner for November**

Parker, CO – 9NEWS and CollegeInvest, Colorado's higher education financing resource are pleased to honor Kristy Baumgartner, a practical arts teacher at Chaparral High School, with the November 9Teachers Who Care award.

Colleagues praise Baumgartner's ability to personally connect with each of the kids she teaches, and the dedication she consistently shows to both her students and her job. Baumgartner oversees Chaparral High School's Alternative Cooperative Education (ACE) program, where she works with student's who are at risk of dropping out.

Baumgartner was nominated by her colleague Karen MacFarland. MacFarland wrote, "Kristy's students truly respond to her genuine care for them, as well as to her no-nonsense approach to teaching."

In the ACE program, Baumgartner teaches students business skills incorporating important lessons such as time and money management, interpersonal skills, ethics and integrity. "Kristy has created an ACE program that has grown from book work to a full-fledged business that makes signage for other schools and businesses," wrote colleague Carol Sehnert. "She teaches honesty and integrity to students who previously would have laughed at anyone who tried to do that."

"Kristy is the strong and passionate leader we all seek to surround ourselves with in our school district," says Douglas County School District Superintendent Jim Christensen. "I am overwhelmingly impressed with the strategies and competence she displays in her job, attitude and passion for the teaching profession."

The 9Teachers Who Care award was created by 9NEWS and CollegeInvest in 2001 to recognize and profile educators who are making a difference. The program was designed to highlight the positive stories and outcomes that are happening in Colorado classrooms every day.

CollegeInvest is a not-for-profit division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Since 1979, CollegeInvest has helped more than half a million families break down the financial barriers to college by providing expert information, simple planning tools, scholarships, 529 college savings plans, and low-cost student and parent loans. For more information, visit [collegeinvest.org](http://collegeinvest.org) or call 1-888-448-2424.

Anyone can nominate a teacher for the 9Teachers Who Care award. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Education Page or the Community Page on 9news.com or requested by calling 303-871-1899.

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