

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



May 20, 2009

King Murphy Elementary School's Gloria Jean Graham Named 9Teachers Who Care Award Winner for May

EVERGREEN, CO – 9NEWS and CollegeInvest, Colorado's higher education financing resource, are pleased to honor Gloria Jean Graham, a first grade teacher at King Murphy Elementary School, with the May 9Teachers Who Care award.

Graham was nominated by her daughter, former students and colleagues, including King Elementary School Principal Colleen Larson in honor of her 42 years as a teacher. Graham's teaching formed a lasting impression on her students throughout the years and, after decades in education, she is still eager to strengthen her skills as an educator.

"With all the years of experience she has gained as a classroom teacher, she remains enthusiastic and passionate about student learning," wrote Larson. "In order to remain on the cutting edge of new educational ideas and programs, Ms. Graham eagerly continues her own personal education."

Many students credit Graham for fostering their interest in math and computers. Graham brought the first computer lab to Clear Creek School District in the 1980s, even educating herself on the technology so she could pass her knowledge on to her students.

"My love of computers started with Ms. Graham," wrote former student Lecia La'Chelle. "She brought the first computer lab to Carlson when I was in third grade. Ms. Graham has been one of the best contributors to my educational experience"

Graham has inspired her colleagues to become better educators, and has even prompted students to seek careers in education.

"Because of Ms. Graham, I grew up knowing I wanted to be a teacher...This is such a gift," wrote former student Renée Moss. "She always had a way of making me smile and laughing with us."

"[Ms. Graham's] leadership in 1981 helped me become a more efficient teacher and classroom manager," wrote Susan Foley, Graham's colleague and friend of 27 years. "Her professional conduct was a model for me to aspire to. She is without a doubt the hardest-working teacher I've worked with in my career."

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 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.

###