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## **April “9Teachers Who Care” Award Announced** *Congratulations to Pauline Nelson of Belleview Elementary*

**Littleton, CO** – 9NEWS and CollegeInvest are pleased to honor Pauline Nelson, a kindergarten teacher at Belleview Elementary School, with the April “9Teachers Who Care” award.

As a teacher to the youngest students at Belleview Elementary, Nelson exhibits a passion for her work that is revered by her colleagues and Belleview parents. According to the parents who nominated Nelson, her unique teaching style and commitment to the community are what makes her a teacher who cares.

Ledia Karst, a Belleview Elementary parent, nominated Nelson for the 9Teachers Who Care Award. In her nomination, Karst reflected on her first visit to Nelson’s classroom. “The children reflected a high level of confidence and consistency, integrity, team work, independent thinking as well as responsible behavior,” wrote Karst. “They had been learning about good manners as well as job sharing, creative work and ‘serious play time.’ It all showed. They knew exactly what to do every minute they were in the classroom and they were happy and proud.”

According to Molly Drvenkar, the principal at Belleview Elementary, Nelson has made a tremendous impact on the school. “Pauline has been a chief contributor to the growth and development of Belleview Elementary School. Her passionate pursuit of improved practices in education is evident through her professional leadership, teamwork and creative new approaches. She is truly an advocate for the success of all students and staff members,” Drvenkar wrote.

Nelson often takes on activities outside of the classroom. She takes the time to volunteer at the Broadway Assistance Center and has encouraged the Belleview community to help out as well. Nelson also champions programs in the school. She pioneered the Belleview Elementary Shakespeare Club. According to Drvenkar, almost half of the students at Belleview take part in the club.

“In short, Pauline Nelson is an ideal teacher, preparing her students both for first grade and for life. I had never thought of kindergarten as an academic year (being of the generation that experienced kindergarten through milk, cookies and naps), but Ms. Nelson has radically changed that view,” wrote Paul Gustav Neumann another Belleview parent.

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 1-888-900-COLLEGE.

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](http://9news.com) or requested by calling 303-871-1899.

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