

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Westview Elementary's Sara Gallegos Named 9Teachers Who Care Award Winner for February

NORTHGLENN, CO – 9NEWS and CollegeInvest, Colorado's higher education financing resource, are pleased to honor Sara Gallegos, a 3rd grade teacher at Westview Elementary School, with the February 9Teachers Who Care award.

Gallegos was nominated by parents of her students, colleagues, and the Westview Elementary School principal. Gallegos' nominators praise her outstanding teaching abilities as well as her dedication to every student in her classroom.

Gallegos takes the time to learn how each of her students learns best, and goes out of her way to teach to all students in a way that works for them. She has gone so far as to compose educational songs and recorded them on CDs for each student to learn from.

"Mrs. Gallegos truly takes a genuine interest in how each individual student learns," writes parent Debbie Clark. "One of her students was diagnosed as dyslexic. She found a few techniques that she incorporates into her lesson so that the dyslexic child could learn as easily as the rest of the class."

Gallegos devotes hours beyond her required teaching duties to give extra tutoring to any students who need it, and even free guitar lessons to any child interested. She thinks outside the box to help inspire an interest in learning in her students.

"Mrs. Gallegos is one of the best teachers I have known in the eight years I have been a principal," writes Westview Elementary Principal Amy Bruce. "Her intelligence drives her to constantly learn more, and her love for children causes her to apply what she learns in ways that have an incredibly positive impact on their lives and that of their families."

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.

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