

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



January 30, 2009

Weld Central High School's Luann Pavlu Named 9Teachers Who Care Award Winner for January

KEENESBURG, CO – 9NEWS and CollegeInvest, Colorado's higher education financing resource, are pleased to honor Luann Pavlu, a special needs teacher at Weld Central High School, with the January 9Teachers Who Care award.

Pavlu was nominated by her students, parents of her students, colleagues, as well as the Weld Central High School principal. Pavlu's students and their families speak with warmth and admiration about the many ways in which she has inspired them to succeed.

Pavlu works tirelessly to help special needs students at her school accomplish their goals and dreams. In addition to starting a Special Olympics program at the school, Pavlu has created a curriculum that goes beyond traditional education to teach her students life skills and job training.

"The progress [Pavlu's] students make while they are with her is truly amazing," wrote Principal Don Frenzen. "Because of her efforts, the inclusion of her special needs students in the general population couldn't be more positive."

"Luann is always doing things that are over and above what your normal teacher does," wrote a parent. "She has helped to make our kids the great people they are."

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.

###