

Together We  
Shine



Honoring  
Employee Service and  
2023-2024 Retirees



**EAST AURORA**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 181

# Program of Events

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**Kane County**  
**Educator of the Year**  
**& ISBE's Those Who Excel**

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## Reception

Appetizer Buffet | Musical Prelude

## Awards Ceremony/Welcome

Superintendent, Dr. Jennifer Norrell

## Longevity Recognition

*Years of Service*

**10** Years | **15** Years | **20** Years

**25** Years | **30** Years

## Kane County Educator of the Year & ISBE's Those Who Excel Honorees

Elementary School Teacher | Middle School Teacher

High School Teacher | Student Support Personnel

Early Career Educator | Educational Service Personnel

Administrator | Teams

## Retirement Recognition

## Closing Ceremony

# Years of Service ✨

## 10 Years

**Michelle L. Albrecht**

Brady Elementary School

**Lucia Alvarez**

O'Donnell Elementary School

**David R. Ballard**

Administrative Center

**Brian S. Banach**

Simmons Middle School

**Krista S. Barenie**

Gates Elementary School

**Joseph Bastian**

Benavides STEAM Academy

**Michelle F. Bohanek**

Cowherd Middle School

**Jane M. Cho**

Dieterich Elementary School

**Donnell Collins**

East Aurora High School

**Alma R. Colton**

Krug Elementary School

**Nicholas B. Cowger**

East Aurora High School

**Molly H. Cox**

Simmons Middle School

**David C. Crooks**

O'Donnell Elementary School

**Lauren P Cunningham**

Dieterich Elementary School

**Stephanie M. DeLeon**

Dieterich Elementary School

**Jacqueline Delgado**

Administrative Center

**Elizabeth A. Elsbree**

Krug Elementary School

**Tanya N. Galloway**

East Aurora High School

**Brittany A. Galow**

Cowherd Middle School

**Heather J. Grossgut**

East Aurora High School

**Katherine M. Harris**

East Aurora High School

**Andrew K. Herrmann**

East Aurora High School

**Kathryn M. Hvala**

East Aurora High School

**Isabel F. Jorjorian**

Johnson Elementary School

**Sandra M. Katula**

Simmons Middle School

**Lisa Marie Kendall**

East Aurora High School

# Years of Service ✨

**Rachel L. Kukuc**

East Aurora High School

**Thomas A Lassandrello**

Simmons Middle School

**Brandon R. Malm**

Buildings and Grounds Center

**Karina Mata**

Allen Elementary School

**Emily S. McGinnis**

Simmons Middle School

**Brian V. Mihovilovich**

East Aurora High School

**Daniel M. Nolan**

Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy

**Courtney L. Phelps**

Rollins Elementary School

**Jason D. Redelman**

East Aurora High School

**Christopher A. Rowold**

Buildings and Grounds Center

**Amanda L. Sanderson**

Administrative Center

**Robin M. Savino**

East Aurora High School

**Isela Schwemlein**

Cowherd Middle School

**Alan A. Scott**

East Aurora High School

**Derrick M. Smith**

East Aurora High School

**Kathryn F. Smith**

East Aurora High School

**James C. Sroka**

East Aurora High School

**Brandon M. Staker**

Simmons Middle School

**Bryan J. Taylor**

East Aurora High School

**Michelle C. Taylor**

O'Donnell Elementary School

**Laurel C. Todas**

Gates Elementary School

**Silvia D. Torres Muro**

Administrative Center

**Filberto M. Torres**

East Aurora High School

**Brett R. Trygar**

Johnson Elementary School

**Jacquelyn M. Tupa**

Cowherd Middle School

**Ann Marie Turner**

Hermes Elementary School

# Years of Service ✨

## 10 Years of Service

(Continued)

**Thomas M. Vasa**  
East Aurora High School

**Erica Y. Vazquez**  
Oak Park Elementary School

**Katelyn R. Willoughby**  
East Aurora High School

**Rebecca F. Zielinski**  
Brady Elementary School

## 15 Years

**Allen J. Arkin**  
Waldo Middle School

**Jennifer M. Avallone**  
Cowherd Middle School

**Christopher Bonavolonta**  
Early Childhood Center

**Francisco Casanova**  
Bardwell Elementary School

**Haydee Cazares**  
Brady Elementary School

**Amanda L. Chaussey**  
Gates Elementary School

**Crystal M. England**  
Simmons Middle School

**Nancy Figueroa**  
Brady Elementary School

**Jessica K. Fisher**  
Waldo Middle School

**Kristin Gannaway**  
East Aurora High School

**Rachel E. Gerhard**  
Cowherd Middle School

**Lucie M. Groleske**  
Rollins Elementary School

**Francisca C. Gutierrez**  
Cowherd Middle School

# Years of Service ✨

**Robert R. Henderson**  
Bardwell Elementary School

**Sandra Ibarra**  
Oak Park Elementary School

**Janel M. Jaros**  
Oak Park Elementary School

**Trevor L. Kershaw**  
East Aurora High School

**Jennifer L. Kmiec**  
Oak Park Elementary School

**Mary L. Llamas**  
Krug Elementary School

**Candice N. McAllister**  
East Aurora High School

**Rhonda K. McFarland**  
Gates Elementary School

**Obed Mendoza**  
East Aurora High School

**Patrick S. Milz**  
East Aurora High School

**Marinel Moyet**  
Benavides STEAM Academy

**Cory E. Nelson**  
Simmons Middle School

**Kathaleen C. O'Brien**  
Cowherd Middle School

**Eileen M. Pasturczak**  
Hermes Elementary School

**Migdalia Reyes Gonzalez**  
Simmons Middle School

**Selina D. Sanchez**  
Administrative Center

**Vicki K. Schacht**  
Cowherd Middle School

**Rachel M. Wrigglesworth**  
Hermes Elementary School

# Years of Service ✨

## 20 Years

**Rosario Arana**

Waldo Middle School

**Rhonda Bass**

Simmons Middle School

**Debbie Carpenter**

Allen Elementary School

**Gretchen M. Cebi**

Hermes Elementary School

**Rosalia Corral**

Hermes Elementary School

**Nancy S. Fine**

Rollins Elementary School

**Nelida M. Frontera**

Allen Elementary School

**Esther Jo Galat**

Cowherd Middle School

**Jolynn Garcia**

Hermes Elementary School

**Kelly M. Hills**

Hermes Elementary School

**Marti G. Johnson**

East Aurora High School

**Donna M. Los**

Waldo Middle School

**Sandra Elizabeth Martinez**

Dieterich Elementary School

**Bethany M. Morton**

Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy

**Kristine D. Musaraca**

Gates Elementary School

**Mary B. Novak**

Brady Elementary School

**Michelle M. Rasmussen**

Dieterich Elementary School

**Evelyn Segura**

Beaupre Elementary School

**Eric D. Stade**

Simmons Middle School

**Jennifer L. Sullivan**

Waldo Middle School

**Wilma M. Vargas**

Early Childhood Center

## 25 Years

**Fatima Ballesteros**

Gates Elementary School

**Julia A. De Nood**

East Aurora High School

**Veronica K. Julien**

Simmons Middle School

**Sally A. Lawkis**

O'Donnell Elementary School

**Maria C. Lemus**

Bardwell Elementary School

**Francesca M. Manzella**

East Aurora High School

**Mindy C. Mirabelli**

Waldo Middle School

**Stephanie Paul**

Benavides STEAM Academy

**Alejandro Ramos**

Hermes Elementary School

**Marcela E. Rodriguez**

Hermes Elementary School

**Laurie A. Ross**

Bardwell Elementary School

**Gloria Salinas**

Administrative Center

# Years of Service ✨

## 30 Years

**Greg Becker**

Waldo Middle School

**Traci D. Bernard**

Simmons Middle School

**Joseph A. Harmon**

East Aurora High School

**Amy L. Huggins**

Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy

# Honorees

## Early Career Educator

**Norma Anguiano** ★  
Benavides STEAM Academy

**Lorena Betancourt** ★★  
Brady Elementary School

**Alyssa M. Canaday** ★  
Allen Elementary School

**Deyaneth N. Castanon** ★  
Hermes Elementary School

**Lisa J. Conte** ★  
Simmons Middle School

**Amador Contreras** ★  
Hermes Elementary School

**Giselle M. Cordero** ★  
Beaupre Elementary School

**Sandra de los Santos** ★  
Johnson Elementary School

**Ivan DeSantiago** ★  
Gonzalez Child Service Center

**Kiera A. Donnamario** ★  
Waldo Middle School

**John D. Gallione** ★  
Simmons Middle School

**Mary Graffis** ★  
East Aurora Extension Campus

**Laura Krueger** ★  
Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy

**Lisa M. Litvin** ★  
O'Donnell Elementary School

**Ferminia Lopez** ★  
Johnson Elementary School

**Elizabeth Lowery** ★  
Cowherd Middle School

**Claribel Marungo** ★★  
Krug Elementary School

**Christy McKenzie** ★  
Gonzalez Child Service Center

**Joseph A. Nitti** ★★  
Gates Elementary School

**Nayeli Partida** ★★  
East Aurora High School

**Thalia Patterson** ★  
Early Childhood Center

**Molly N. Purse** ★★  
Oak Park Elementary School

**Kimberly A. Ritko** ★  
Cowherd Middle School

**Nuria Roman Moreno** ★  
O'Donnell Elementary School

**Roberto Romero** ★  
Early Childhood Center

**Megan A. Saar** ★  
Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy

**Elizabeth Schulz** ★★  
Dieterich Elementary School

**Elizabeth Sherwood** ★  
Bardwell Elementary School

**Shawn Shotts** ★★  
Rollins Elementary School

**Colin E. Sullivan** ★  
Bardwell Elementary School

# Honorees

## Early Career Educator (Continued)

**Roderick Whyte** ★  
Waldo Middle School

**Eva P. Wisemiller** ★  
Benavides STEAM Academy

**Nancy Wisniewski** ★  
East Aurora Extension Campus

**Joseph T. Wulff** ★  
Beaupre Elementary School

## Teacher

**Eileen A. Acosta** ★  
Cowherd Middle School

**Maria D. Alcalá** ★  
Dieterich Elementary School

**Norma Anguiano** ★  
Benavides STEAM Academy

**Debra L. Anhalt** ★  
Gates Elementary School

**Melissa A. Brosius** ★  
Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy

**Brianna Caputo** ★  
Oak Park Elementary School

**Crystal A. Cepek** ★  
Simmons Middle School

**Nicole R. Clarke** ★  
Hermes Elementary School

**Jacquelyn R. Cudebec** ★  
Krug Elementary School

**Maria T. Hernandez** ★  
Beaupre Elementary School

**Amy K. Johnson** ★  
Gonzalez Child Service Center

**Sierra M. Keltz** ★  
Allen Elementary School

**Wendy M. Magana** ★  
Early Childhood Center

**Traci Martinez** ★  
Bardwell Elementary School

**Jessica M. Merlo** ★  
Rollins Elementary School

**Cindy R. Owen** ★  
Gates Elementary School

**Robin M. Savino** ★  
East Aurora High School

**Scarlott A. Stein** ★  
East Aurora Extension Campus

**Theresa M. Stelman** ★  
O'Donnell Elementary School

**Kaliopi Tsioupros** ★  
Waldo Middle School

**Cassie Marie Weidemiller** ★  
Brady Elementary School

**Julie M. Weintraub** ★  
Johnson Elementary School

## Elementary School

(Including PreK)

**Joseph Bastian** ★  
Benavides STEAM Academy



# Honorees

**Nataly J. Cajamarca** ★  
Administrative Center  
**Brianna Caputo** ★  
Oak Park Elementary School

**Isabel F. Jorjorian** ★  
Johnson Elementary School

**Wendy M. Magana** ★  
Early Childhood Center

**Derrick E. Padovich** ★  
Hermes Elementary School

**Victoria E. Patrick** ★  
Brady Elementary School

**Courtney L. Phelps** ★  
Rollins Elementary School

**Theresa M. Stellman** ★  
O'Donnell Elementary School

**Jessica Vega** ★  
Krug Elementary School

**Katherine R. Werner** ★  
Dieterich Elementary School

**Maritere Wise** ★  
Gonzalez Child Service Center

**Catherine R. Witzke** ★  
Beaupre Elementary School

## Middle School Teacher

**Michele A. Dakan** ★  
Cowherd Middle School

**2024 Kane County  
Educator of the Year**



**Cynthia C. Martinez** ★★  
Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy

**Lauren J. Rios** ★  
Waldo Middle School

## High School Teacher

**Kenneth Gerk** ★  
East Aurora High School

## Student Support Personnel

**Jennie A. Andersen-Drake** ★  
East Aurora High School

**Gabriela Arriaga** ★  
East Aurora High School

**Danielle M. Balles** ★  
Benavides STEAM Academy

**Donna M. Barry** ★★  
O'Donnell Elementary School

**Elizabeth Pigatti Cotter** ★  
Bardwell Elementary School

**Kari L. Del Fiacco** ★  
Simmons Middle School

**Myra Denton** ★  
Johnson Elementary School

**Molly Donivan** ★  
Gonzalez Child Service Center

**Alexander D. Furr** ★★  
Dieterich Elementary School

**Rachel E. Gerhard** ★  
Cowherd Middle School

**Mayra A. Gonzalez** ★  
East Aurora Extension Campus

**Amber M. Gustilo** ★  
Rollins Elementary School

**Victoria A. Haier** ★★  
Oak Park Elementary School

# Honorees

## Student Support Personnel (Continued)

**Ashley M. Hogan** ★  
Krug Elementary School

**Jennifer E. Lipscomb** ★  
Johnson Elementary School

**Mayra A. Loera** ★★  
Early Childhood Center

**Maiden Lopez** ★  
Rollins Elementary School

**Carol A. Mertes** ★  
Krug Elementary School

**Adam P. Michels** ★  
Simmons Middle School

**Evelyn Moy** ★  
Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy

**Stefanie S. Nelson** ★  
Benavides STEAM Academy

**Alison M. Quill** ★  
Bardwell Elementary School

**Lauren M. Rahn** ★  
Allen Elementary School

**Emily R. Rezek** ★  
Gates Elementary School

**Molly S. Rosenfeld** ★  
Hermes Elementary School

**Susan Salinas-Ramirez** ★  
Gates Elementary School

**Angela K. Steffen** ★★  
Beaupre Elementary School

**Anne M. Stockl** ★  
Waldo Middle School

**Jennifer L. Sullivan** ★  
Waldo Middle School

**Katherine N. Swanson** ★★  
Brady Elementary School

**Teresa G. Varner** ★  
Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy

**Jayson L. Via** ★★  
Administrative Center

**Kathryn M. Ward** ★  
Hermes Elementary School

**Rebecca Jo Wilding** ★  
Cowherd Middle School

## Educational Service Personnel

**Juana E. Acosta** ★  
Bardwell Elementary School

**Yannet E. Alcantara** ★  
Allen Elementary School

**Ester Alvarez** ★  
Early Childhood Center

**Veronica Amador** ★  
Simmons Middle School

**Magaly Avitia** ★★  
Gates Elementary School

**Alejandra Barraza** ★★  
Brady Elementary School

**Rhonda Bass** ★  
Simmons Middle School

# Honorees ✨

**Marisol Berrios** ★  
Dieterich Elementary School

**Cody Bezik** ★★  
Waldo Middle School

**Joana Camarillo** ★  
Krug Elementary School

**Dale Feiden** ★  
Oak Park Elementary School

**Barry F. Gaiter** ★  
Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy

**Elianita Garza** ★  
Building and Grounds

**Jessica Gonzalez** ★  
Hermes Elementary School

**Alisa C. Grimes** ★★  
East Aurora Extension Campus

**Ashley Hearon** ★  
Beaupre Elementary School

**Jennifer Hernandez** ★  
Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy

**Jose A. Hernandez** ★  
O'Donnell Elementary School

**Timothy T. Hollins** ★  
Cowherd Middle School

**Tiffany A. Honeywood** ★★  
Gonzalez Child Service Center

**Roberto Jarquin** ★  
Krug Elementary School

**Marisol Loera Flores** ★  
O'Donnell Elementary School

**Maria A. Martinez** ★  
Hermes Elementary School

**Carmen M. Mendez** ★  
Rollins Elementary School

**Frank Mendoza Sr.** ★★  
Johnson Elementary School

**Yesenia Padilla-Pola** ★  
Early Childhood Center

**Johana M. Pineda** ★  
Beaupre Elementary School

**Silvia A. Rangel**  
Bardwell Elementary School

**Burnham L. Revan** ★  
Rollins Elementary School

**Felipe J. Ruiz** ★  
Dieterich Elementary School

**Anthony Rhoden** ★  
Oak Park Elementary School

**Wilnerys Santiago** ★  
Benavides STEAM Academy

**Gloria Salinas** ★  
Administrative Center

**Maureen M. Sauter-Taylor** ★  
Benavides STEAM Academy

**Ghenay I. Suggs** ★  
Administrative Center

**Edith Vargas** ★  
Cowherd Middle School

**Magdalena Williams** ★★  
East Aurora High School

# Honorees ✨

## Administrator

**Carmen Abraham** ★★  
Beaupre Elementary School

**Andrew J. Allen** ★  
Administrative Center

**Courtney T. Bissell** ★  
Johnson Elementary School

**Dr. Juan E. Corona** ★  
Rollins Elementary School

**Taveras J. Crump** ★  
East Aurora Extension Campus

**Lauren P. Cunningham** ★★  
Dieterich Elementary School

**Anastasia Heimberger** ★★  
Cowherd Middle School

**Jessica J. Henry** ★★  
Brady Elementary School

**Kelly M. Hills** ★  
Hermes Elementary School

**Michele M. Kandi** ★  
Bardwell Elementary School

**Nicholas R. Kuri** ★  
Building and Grounds

**James P. Los** ★★  
Simmons Middle School

**Kevin R. Marten** ★★  
East Aurora High School

**Isaias Martinez** ★★  
Gates Elementary School

**Annette R. McMahon** ★★   
Oak Park Elementary School

**Megan Murray** ★  
East Aurora Extension Campus

**Isabel M. Novak De Los Santos** ★  
Hermes Elementary School

**Susan Y. Orozco** ★★  
Early Childhood Center

**Lirio Ramirez** ★★  
O'Donnell Elementary School

**Patricia Rangel** ★★  
Benavides STEAM Academy

**Eileen E. Roberts** ★★  
Waldo Middle School

**Laura Sandoval** ★  
Bardwell Elementary School

**Ines Sem** ★  
Johnson Elementary School

**Stephanie P. Schmiesing** ★  
Rollins Elementary School

**Jonathan C. Simpson** ★  
Allen Elementary School

**Stephanie R. Steinbrecher** ★★  
Aries "Jaybird" Gonzalez Child Center

**Marlon R. Williams** ★★  
Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy



# Honorees

## Teams

### Technology Team ★

Administrative Center

### Adventures Team ★

Aries "Jaybird" Gonzalez  
Child Center

### Encore Team ★

Benavides STEAM Academy

### Supervisor Team ★

Buildings & Grounds

### Social Committee ★

C.F. Simmons Middle School

### Instructional Coaches Team ★

C.M. Bardwell Elementary School

### Transition Team ★

East Aurora High School

### Encore Team ★

Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy

### Kindergarten Team ★

G. N. Dieterich Elementary  
School

### Encore Team ★

H.W. Cowherd Middle School

### SLC Team ★

J. W. Gates Elementary School

### Team 6B ★

K.D. Waldo Middle School

### MTSS Team ★

L. D. Brady Elementary School  
School

### Kindergarten Team ★

N. A. Hermes Elementary School

### 3rd Grade Team ★

Allen etc.

### MTSS Team ★

Oak Park Elementary School

### SLT Team ★

O'Donnell Elementary School

### MTSS Team ★

Rollins Elementary School

### SLT Team ★

W. S. Beaupre Elementary School



Kane County Educator of the  
Year Nominee 2023



ISBE Those Who Excel  
Nominee 2023



Winner - Kane County  
School Administrator 2024



Winner - Kane County  
Educator of the Year 2024

# Retirees

### Yolanda Aguirre de Escalante

Early Childhood Center

### Munazza B. Akhtar

Gates Elementary

### Pamela S. Bennett

Administrative Center

### Traci D. Bernard

Simmons Middle School

### Sarah T. Bonebrake

East Aurora High School

### Rebecca L. Campbell

Simmons Middle School

### Nitza J. Carrillo

Simmons Middle School

### Lorrie A. Darce

Rollins Elementary

### Crystal M. England

Simmons Middle School

### Catalina Felix Saenz

East Aurora High School

### Michael Fernandez

East Aurora High School

### Nancy S. Fine

Rollins Elementary

### Patricia L. Fredres

Krug Elementary

### Kevin D. Frelander

Brady Elementary

### Bonnie Hazelwood-Garcia

Dieterich Elementary School

### Guadalupe Galvan

Simmons Middle School

### Christine L. Gear

Simmons Middle School

### Jacqueline L. Hearon

Beaupre Elementary

### Janel M. Jaros

Oak Park Elementary

### Veronica K. Julien

Simmons Middle School

### Paul G. Klinger

East Aurora High School

### Nancy L. Kluck

Gates Elementary

### Walter E. Koch

Waldo Middle School

### Janet M. Kolodziejek

Waldo Middle School

### Donna M. Los

Waldo Middle School

### Sandra E. Martinez

Dieterich Elementary

# Retirees ✨

**Debra L. McConnell**  
Cowherd Middle School

**John McGary**  
Simmons Middle School

**Lusmila Miranda**  
East Aurora High School

**Mary B. Novak**  
Brady Elementary

**Isabel Novak De Los Santos**  
Hermes Elementary School

**Diane M. Petesch**  
Gates Elementary School

**Wallis L. Perfect**  
Waldo Middle School

**Esmeralda Postlewaite**  
Administrative Center

**Migdalia Reyes Gonzalez**  
Simmons Middle School

**Gloria S. Salinas**  
Administrative Center

**Pamela A. Smith**  
Beaupre Elementary

**Bonita C. Swanson**  
Dieterich Elementary

**Peggy L. Thayer**  
East Aurora High School

**Maria D. Vargas**  
Cowherd Middle School

**Laura B. Williams Romero**  
Early Childhood Center

# Honored Guests ✨

## Superintendent

Dr. Jennifer Norrell

## Board of Education

Ms. Annette Johnson    Mr. Judd Lofchie

Mr. Dan Barreiro        Mr. Saul Olivas

Mr. Bruce Schubert     Mr. Juan Sifuentes

Mr. Alex Arroyo

## Human Resources Team

Jalitza Martinez        Viridiana Bermudez

Amanda Sanderson     Silvia Torres Muro

Maria Santabarbara    Eric Thorson

Brisa Mendez Galvan    Migdalia Torres

Natasha Hampton      Miranda Palacios

Thank You!

**Technology Team**

**Buildings & Grounds**

**Public Relations Team**

**Together We Shine Volunteers**



**EAST AURORA**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 131