



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Forest Lake teachers Buerkle and Nellis honored by TIES

FOREST LAKE, MINN. – Wyoming Elementary 1st Grade Teacher Terri Buerkle and Forest Lake Area High School’s Kristen Nellis, who teaches business, have been named 2011 winners of the TIES Exceptional Teachers Awards.

The annual award is given each year to outstanding teachers who work in districts that are members of TIES.

Buerkle, who has taught in the Forest Lake Area Schools district since 1997, “is truly an exceptional technology role model for her teaching colleagues, her students and their parents,” according to Forest Lake Area Schools Superintendent Linda Madsen.

“As a first grade teacher at Wyoming Elementary, technology serves as the perfect vehicle to satisfy both Terri’s and her students’ innate curiosity and desire to learn and discover,” Madsen said. “Students ‘live’ with technology hardware, software and skills in Terri’s classroom. She creates parental excitement and engagement as well.

“For Terri, 21st Century skills are an everyday integration and all children have technology in hand to open doors to learning. Terri is an authentic learner, and shares her ideas, knowledge and passion with colleagues in her building and throughout the district.”

(MORE)

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Nellis has been an instructional and technology leader at Forest Lake Area High School since 2001 who, Madsen said, “has the tenacity and the capacity to research details and best practice, bring them forward in discussion, and carry through on any task before her.

“As a business education teacher, (Nellis) understands that students’ access to the 21st century is through the use of cutting edge technology and instruction.”

“Kristen has been instrumental in the work connected to providing online programming at the high school and has led the way as a classroom teacher and as a mentor to other district staff members. She is collaborative and passionate about providing exciting opportunities for students.”

Both Buerkle and Nellis said were excited about new technology and the educational potential it brings.

“I feel honored by this award and am so proud to work for and with so many talented people in our district,” Buerkle said. “I love watching my 1st graders and colleagues get excited about technology. I feel that, especially in education, we need to keep up with the ‘techie’ world.”

“I feel really lucky to work for a district that supports my ideas when it comes to using technology in the classroom,” Nellis said. “Forest Lake is very innovative and allows teachers to try new ideas to enhance student learning. I feel that teaching technology skills to students not only excites them, but also prepares them for what the future will expect them to be able to do.”

Buerkle and Nellis will receive their awards at the TIES Annual Conference in early December.

TIES is a joint-powers education technology cooperative that has existed since 1967. TIES is owned by its members - 46 school districts from around Minnesota, which represent a total of 514 schools.

Anyone seeking more information about TIES can check out their website at <http://www.ties.k12.mn.us>