



# Spotlight on Teaching & Learning

The North Central ESD Division of Educational Services provides a comprehensive menu of services to assist our region's educators in their efforts to provide safe, healthy, supportive and positive learning environments where students achieve high levels of success using research-based and evidence-based practices integrated with educational technology.

We pride ourselves in offering custom solutions and support to meet the needs of our school districts encompassing their staff, students, families and communities. Our team is comprised of educational professionals with a wide range of backgrounds and experience.

NCESD welcomes the opportunity to walk alongside you and discuss our programs and services in order to support your specific district needs.

For more information, please contact:

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## STEM Co-op

The North Central ESD STEM Materials Cooperative will begin the process of transitioning to new instructional materials aligned to the 2013 Washington State Science Learning Standards (Next Generation Science Standards) beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. This is an exciting change for districts as this three-year process replaces old kits with new Smithsonian in the Classroom modules.

Our goal is to make the STEM Materials Cooperative work for your district! Districts currently in the cooperative, as well as those considering being a part of the cooperative will have two different kit buy-in options as part of this transition.

NCESD is also working to reduce the cost of this buy-in by seeking business and community donors from around the region. You can learn more about this at <http://www.ncesd.org/news/service/stem/stem-materials-center/>

If you have any questions or would like more information on the STEM Cooperative, please contact:

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## Congratulations Dr. Price!



We are thrilled to announce that NCESD Superintendent Dr. Michelle Price has been selected as the Educational Administrator of the Year by the Washington Association of Education Office Professionals (WAEOP).

Dr. Price will be recognized at WAEOP's annual awards banquet on April 21 in Bellevue. She will also be presented to the National Association of Education Office Professionals for award consideration.

Dr. Price has served as the NCESD Superintendent since July, and previously held teaching and leadership positions within the Moses Lake School District. She holds a Doctorate in Education from Washington State University, and M.A. and B.A. from Central Washington University. She is the recipient of multiple awards and designations, including the Washington Association of School Administrators Regional Award of Merit for Effective Leadership.

"Dr. Price is a lifelong learner and she continues to support and encourage others around her to pursue their dreams. She is receiving this award because she continually supports staff efforts to continue their education or career. She is a great example in the educational realm that if you work hard and believe in your dreams, you can achieve your goals one step at a time. Dr. Price is a great leader and a motivator and cheerleader for the educational support professionals the districts she supervises," explained Cheryl Smith, CEO and WAEOP Awards Chairman.

### DID YOU KNOW?

*The NCESD features a comprehensive calendar listing all Professional Development opportunities and NCESD events. Check out [www.ncesd.org](http://www.ncesd.org) for more!*

## Regional Classified School Employee of the Year announced



We're pleased to announce Avid Castro as the recipient of the Classified School Employee of the Year award. Castro is a Paraeducator at Manson Elementary School.

School districts throughout the NCESD's four-county service district were encouraged to nominate outstanding classified school employees for this distinguished award. Castro was nominated by her supervisor, Keitlyn Watson, for her outstanding collaborative spirit and her ability to lead by example. Watson wrote: "She is a consummate professional, an inspiration to kids and adults, and has a passion for her work that is unmatched. She is willing to do whatever is best for kids and puts that at the forefront of her work. We are so lucky to have Avid at our school, serving our kids."

Castro has been with the Manson School District for 17 years, 13 of which she's served as a bilingual Paraeducator. She is currently working toward obtaining her AA degree in early Childhood Education.

"I believe that one of my most important duties in my building and district is supporting the English Language Learners (ELL) and newcomer students. Newcomers are students who have just arrived in this country, typically from Mexico. These students tend to make up most, if not all, of our ELL program. Students who fall in either one of these categories find themselves in a difficult time period of their lives. They have moved into a whole new world where the culture, language, and their surrounding are complete unknowns. I am fortunate to be one of the people who gets to work with this great group of students," Castro explained.

*The mission of the North Central Educational Service District is to provide leadership and quality service in advocating for innovative educational programs for the children and communities we serve. To learn more, visit [www.ncesd.org](http://www.ncesd.org)*