



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Berrien RESA Announces Parent Advisory Committee “Excellence in Education” Award Banquet

Berrien Springs-On Tuesday, March 10, 2020, the Berrien Regional Education Service Agency's (Berrien RESA) Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) will host the 16th Annual Excellence in Education Award Banquet. The event will celebrate the dedicated work of area special education teachers, administrators or volunteers. From the list of nominees, 5 finalists will be revealed during the Banquet, with one of the finalists being chosen as the overall award winner.

The nominees are:

- **Benton Harbor Area Schools**
-Latasha Heggler-Thomas, Special Education Teacher, International Academy at Hull
- **Brandywine Community Schools**
-Cathy Levy, Physical Therapist, Merritt Elementary (Berrien RESA employee)
- **Niles Community Schools**
-Ellen Boruta, Special Education Teacher, Howard-Ellis Elementary
-Debbie Shuster, Special Education Teacher, Ballard Elementary
- **River Valley School District**
-Laura Fox, Special Education Teacher Assistant, Chikaming Elementary
- **Berrien RESA – Administration Center**
-Tamara Claes, Occupational Therapist
-Shelley Schmaltz, Occupational Therapist
-Jasmine Good, School Psychologist

Individuals were nominated by Berrien County school district personnel for their contributions to the education and success of students with impairments.

Media is encouraged to attend the event. Please RSVP your attendance to Karen Heath, Berrien RESA Supervisor of Communications, at (269) 471-7725 ext. 1147 by March 6, 2020. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at the Berrien RESA Administrative Conference Center.

The Special Education Parents Advisory Committee (PAC) is comprised of two representatives from each school district in Berrien County. The committee works with Berrien RESA to discuss special education issues and creates an additional link between the Berrien RESA's services and the local school districts.

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