



## Memorandum

To: Board of Education  
CC: Dr. Debbie Jones, Superintendent  
From: Leslee Wright, Director of Communications  
Date: August 17, 2021  
RE: Extra Mile Service Award

Marie Cowgur is our August Extra Mile Award recipient. Marie is the mother of board member Willie Cowgur but her contributions to Bentonville Schools are vastly different than those of her son's. Marie is an employee in our transportation division. She is a bus driver by title but also a guardian of our students, transportation cheerleader and, most recently added, HR recruiter to her job description. Marie was nominated for this award by her supervisor, Director of Transportation, Jason Salmons. Jason wrote in his nomination Marie has reached out to local businesses and former drivers to recruit top talent. Thanks to her efforts, we've rehired three former drivers with leads on three more. Driving a school bus is difficult. It's become increasingly hard to identify drivers in the current pandemic. Having someone like Marie go to bat for you speaks volumes. It also doesn't hurt that she bakes the best chocolate sheet cake this side of the Mississippi!

Marie Cowgur is not a colleague. She's family. We're honored to present her to the Bentonville Schools Board of Education and ask you to join us in appreciating her.

### **About the Extra Mile Award**

Any individual may nominate a Bentonville Schools employee by going to our [website](#). Nominations will be considered by administration and that employee's direct supervisor. Nomination rules and regulations will be posted on the website prior to the start of the nomination process.