



Memorandum

To: Board of Education
CC: Dr. Debbie Jones, Superintendent
From: Leslee Wright, Director of Communications
Date: November 16, 2021
RE: Extra Mile Service Award

Andrea Thompson oversees a group of students at Bentonville West High School committed to mentoring and leadership. The group's catchy name, LinkDen, consists of students looking to make their mark in their school and city. It's a lofty mission, when you consider some might see youth as a detractor, but when you meet Andrea, you see where the tenacity originates.

Andrea has served Bentonville Schools for 16 years and is a graduate of Bentonville High School. She was nominated for the Extra Mile Award by, R.E. Baker mother, Cortney Carlson. Cortney, wife to board member Kelly Carlson and a member of the Choose Love committee, cited Andrea's leadership efforts on behalf of Choose Love 2021. Cortney wrote, "Mrs. Thompson empowered her students to present and discuss their plans for the downtown event. Each student was articulate and well prepared to talk through his or her ideas. It was immediate, through their authentic exchanges, that her students respected and appreciated her."

Director of Communications Leslee Wright added simply, "Choose Love 2021 would not have happened without Andrea's leadership."

Andrea committed countless hours and personal resources to ensure Choose Love 2021 was a success. She went as far as to enlist her own mother and father to help with set up the evening of the event. Former supervisor and current executive director of student services Don Hoover best summed her up when considering her nomination. "Andrea is a ball of energy and happiness and brings a level of comfort to everything she does."

Join us in celebrating Andrea Thompson, our November Extra Mile Award Recipient.

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.