



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Taryn Retzlaff
NSAA Phone: 402-489-0386

LINCOLN, NE — The Nebraska School Activities Association is proud to recognize Ms. Debbie Hennessy of Waverly as this week's Above and Beyond Award nominee. As the Transportation Director for a district with an exceptionally high percentage of bused students, Debbie is the definition of dependable, efficient, and deeply compassionate service.



Every day, Debbie coordinates dozens of intricate bus routes, ensuring students are transported safely to and from school and every event in between. In a district where many kids rely on daily transportation, Debbie makes it happen—even if it means getting behind the wheel herself. From regular school routes to late-night practices, she ensures every child gets home, even offering a district-wide activity bus to serve those involved in athletics and after-school activities.

And this is more than just logistics. Debbie knows every student by name. She knows their bus number, their route, the street they live on—somehow even which seat they usually sit in. That level of personal investment is almost unheard of, but for Debbie, it's just how she does her job. She treats every student as if they were her own.

One small but unforgettable example: On a day she was filling in for a route, she noticed a student was missing. Instead of assuming the best, she

personally called the student's parent to ensure everything was okay before allowing the bus to leave. It's a simple act—but it speaks volumes about her dedication, attention to detail, and genuine care.

Debbie's service is rooted in a family legacy of transportation excellence. Her late mother, Carleen, was the longtime Transportation Director and driver for Waverly. When Carleen passed away unexpectedly, Debbie stepped in immediately to carry on the work—without hesitation or fanfare. Alongside her brother Pete and sister-in-law Tiffany, who also serve the department, Debbie has continued the family's legacy of care, commitment, and community.

Her leadership is calm, her presence reassuring, and her impact immeasurable. She hires only the best drivers, prioritizing student safety and wellbeing above all else. For many families, Debbie is the quiet force that makes school possible, activities accessible, and peace of mind a reality.

The NSAA is proud to honor Ms. Debbie Hennessy for going above and beyond—not just as a transportation leader, but as a pillar of her school and community.

The NSAA's Above and Beyond Program is designed to recognize the hidden gems of communities across Nebraska. [Click here to nominate someone today!](#)