



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 16, 2025
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LINCOLN, NE — The Nebraska School Activities Association is proud to recognize Ms. Susan Tunnell of Minden High School as this week's Above and Beyond Award nominee.

There are people whose impact on a school community is measured not by titles or job descriptions, but by the quiet, consistent ways they show up—and Susan Tunnell is one of those



people. A parent of a Minden High School student, Susan has taken on leadership roles in an extraordinary number of activities including Speech, Play Production, FCCLA, Tech Club, Booster Club, and the Post Prom Committee. Her fingerprints are on nearly every corner of student life at Minden, and her influence stretches far beyond what can be seen.

One of her most critical contributions has been serving as the parent chairperson of the concession stands for both our speech and play production events. These stands are not only a vital fundraising tool, but a source of pride for our school—and that's because of Susan. She invests countless hours managing every detail, from stocking supplies to staffing volunteers. The result? A high-functioning operation that boosts our budget and lifts morale at the same time. Even after her own child graduated from the speech team, she stayed on—continuing to lead with the same care and commitment.

Beyond that, Susan has helped write and secure grants from local foundations to support our programs financially. She attends competitions,

cheers on students, and helps foster a culture where parents want to get involved. People want to work concessions because Susan is in charge—they know the job will be well-organized, purposeful, and even fun.

She doesn't stop during the summer, either. Susan also oversees Little League baseball concessions and thoughtfully invites student organizations to work those stands so she can donate the profits directly back to them. Her creativity in fundraising and generosity in service has helped breathe life into a previously struggling speech budget and has empowered our students to thrive.

Her work with the hospitality room at our speech meet is legendary. Judges and coaches across the region rave about the experience of coming to Minden—and it's not just because of the food, though that is exceptional. It's the environment she creates: warm, welcoming, and full of care. That atmosphere reflects the way Susan approaches every role she takes on.

She is loved by students, respected by parents, and trusted by staff. Her kindness, humility, and can-do attitude make her a perfect fit for this award. She never seeks recognition, but she absolutely deserves it. The culture she has helped shape at Minden—of teamwork, service, and joyful involvement—is stronger because of her presence.

Susan is a perfect fit for this award. She is humble, she is kind, she is a community-oriented person who everyone loves. I hope you strongly consider her for this award. It would be a meaningful way to thank someone whose impact may often go unnoticed, but whose contributions have meant everything to the students and families she so faithfully serves.

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