



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 2, 2025

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LINCOLN, NE — The Nebraska School Activities Association is honored to recognize Ms. Kris Pestel of Boone Central as this week's Above and Beyond Award nominee. After recently retiring this past school year following 35 years of unwavering service, Kris leaves behind a legacy at Boone Central—formerly Albion High School—marked by deep commitment, tireless support, and an unmatched work ethic.



Kris Pestel has worn more hats than most people will ever try on. As a high school special education teacher, coach, announcer, official, and transportation coordinator, she poured decades of energy and passion into creating opportunities for students—both on the field and in the classroom.

Over the years, she coached girls basketball, volleyball, softball, track and field, and junior high boys basketball. She served as a referee for volleyball and basketball games, announced varsity football and softball games, and lent her voice to district-hosted wrestling meets. Kris was also the behind-the-scenes hero ensuring the wheels—literally—kept turning: as the school's transportation coordinator, she made sure every vehicle was road-ready for student activities across the region.

But Kris's true superpower was her ability to quietly step in and do whatever it took—no fanfare, no expectation of recognition, just an unshakable commitment to kids. She showed up. She pitched in. And she did it all with grit, grace, and a sharp wit that kept everyone around her on their toes.

Her passion for special education changed lives. She held students to high expectations while offering steady support, often helping them maintain academic eligibility and continue in NSAA activities. Her students didn't just grow in the classroom—they became better people because of her lessons in perseverance, personal responsibility, and belief in their potential.

Kris's influence reached every corner of the Boone Central community. Her "I'll be there" attitude, even on short notice, helped the school function like a well-oiled machine. Her colleagues trusted her. Her students respected her. And everyone recognized her iconic voice echoing over the loudspeakers under the Friday night lights.

There isn't one big moment that defines Ms. Pestel's legacy—it's the thousands of small, selfless acts: keeping stats, supervising bus departures, mentoring struggling students, stepping in to cover events, and even exchanging sarcastic hallway banter that reminded everyone she was paying attention. Kris filled the spaces that make a school feel like a community.

Ms. Kris Pestel is the definition of Above and Beyond. Though she retired this past year, her decades of service continue to ripple through Boone Central in every student she pushed to be their best, every staff member she supported, and every event that ran more smoothly because she was there.

She may have stepped away from her daily duties, but her impact is lasting, and her presence will be deeply missed.

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