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**For Immediate Release:**

**Aberdeen Public Schools Foundation Presents Golden Apple Awards**

Aberdeen, SD – The Aberdeen Public Schools Foundation announced the fourth annual Golden Apple Awards on January 2, 2019, to recognize individuals that are dedicated, inspiring, and making a difference in the Aberdeen School District. This year’s honorees were Carol Vetter, Nicole Schutter and Janet Deuel. Each received \$500 and a golden apple.

**Carol Vetter**, CC Lee Elementary Educational Assistant, works selflessly to make sure staff and students are taken care of both in school and after school hours. Her efforts are an important part of why they experience success each and every day. She is dedicated to students and staff and is always there to lend a helping hand. Vetter loves children and has dedicated her life to theirs, and has a true servant’s heart. She helps students learn by helping them sound out words, listening to them while they are learning to read, and just helping wherever it is needed.

Vetter is not only dedicated during school hours, she puts in countless hours after school volunteering with Central High School fine arts activities. She has worked with the show choirs and specializes in assisting students with just the right hairstyle for performances. She also does costuming for numerous plays at CHS and has come up with many designs on her own.

She sews and alters costumes to fit each student. She often buys several props and costuming items on her own that she thinks would be great for the play. From material to hats, jackets, and even furniture items, she is always on the lookout for things that will add to the students' performances.

Over the years Vetter has chaperoned events, coordinated fundraisers, and logged many hours on the road in all kinds of weather. One of her colleagues states, "I can't say enough great things about her. She is one of the most selfless people I know. Always giving and I know the success of our students will be her grand reward. She has dedicated her life and heart tirelessly to our kids."

**Nicole Schutter**, Mike Miller Elementary Principal. From her nominator, "We are parents of a child who has struggled behaviorally and emotionally which is starting to get better with Mrs. Schutter's help, guidance, encouragement, and support. She has always encouraged us to believe that tomorrow is a new day. She helped get a team together to assist our son and would take time out of her day to help with anything he needed to have a good day. Over the years she has helped him calm down using kid yoga, would regularly check in with him during the day, and created and reworked behavior plans based on what was or was not working. She kept us informed and was always upbeat that we would get there. As parents, we want our child to excel at school, have fun, and be safe - which has happened with Mrs. Schutter's help.

It has always been Schutter's goal to ensure that students, families, and staff feel welcome, important, and respected. She had the unique opportunity of opening a brand new school and piloting the iPad initiative, as well as forming a new embedded classroom experience with NSU students. Schutter writes, "We have an amazing team serving our students and families each day, and I am beyond grateful to be part of such a wonderful organization."

**Janet Deuel**, Holgate Middle School Office Assistant, is a great example of going above and beyond and does so much for students. One characteristic that needs to be noted about her is

her welcoming personality. She approaches each day as a new day and does it with a friendly smile and greeting. She is known for acknowledging people in the morning, calling them by name, and asking how their day is going. Deuel is the frontline for students sent to the office for any reason. She cares for students who come to the office sick, angry, or lost with the same cheerful demeanor. She is nurturing when she needs to be, shows tough love when necessary, and always has a smile on her face. Her job requires several opportunities for student supervision, answering the phone, managing attendance issues, subbing in classrooms when needed, helping students with their school work, and staying after school to manage student detention. She is truly a jack of all trades and does it with just the right amount of toughness. One of her colleagues notes, "In all of the years I have worked for the school district, I have never heard a student speak disparagingly of her. I could go on and on about all the things she does"

In addition to her required job assignments, Deuel manages the school sunshine account, organizes her city league volleyball team, and participates in Relay for Life. She works several extra activities including ballgames, concerts, and high school registration. Deuel states, "My job is so rewarding and making a difference in a student's life is the best reward. At the end of the day, a hug from a student brings another day and another smile. The students and staff have given me more in my 18 years than I ever thought possible."

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**Attached photo – Nicole Schutter, Janet Deuel, and Carol Vetter**