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**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

# NEWS RELEASE

## ***KPBSD Distant Education Teacher in Top Five*** **MS. KIM LESLIE IS RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE BY ALASKA** **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT**

**Soldotna, May 12, 2021—A top five finalist for the 2021 Alaska Teacher of the Year, Ms. Leslie paves the way for teachers everywhere to take a big gulp, and deliver high quality learning from a distance. “Kim Leslie is the epitome of a highly skilled 21<sup>st</sup> Century teacher,” said Superintendent O’Brien. “She has the unique ability to make her blended online learning classes a truly personal experience for her students. From day one in her class, her students know that she cares about them and will tailor the instruction to meet their personal interests. Having Kim on our team of KPBSD teachers is a gift to KPBSD and to her students.”**

Ms. Leslie reflected on her teaching career, and said, “One deeply moving part of my work is witnessing the return on investments in people. I watch students stand a little straighter, walk a little farther, and sometimes leap over hurdles simply because I (and other stakeholders in their world) said, ‘I believe in you.’ I’m constantly asking students what they want to learn and understand about the world, and then I do my darndest to support them on that education journey. Depending on the student, that encouragement and support can yield incredible personalized outcomes that go so far beyond grades and transcripts. Like many teachers, I have had students reach out to me after many years and identify a moment, an assignment, or a conversation that we had that ended up spring boarding them into a positive new chapter in their life—from a career direction to a new geographical location to a new passion or hobby. Having those joyful impacts is powerful and enormously rewarding.”

Anna DeVold, a student said, “It was because of Ms. Leslie that I decided to carry out my Caring for the Kenai competition idea; I am now a President’s Environmental Youth Award Winner and an entrepreneur at age 15 as a result of her genuine interest in my life. This is only one example of the many lives she has changed over the years, and that is what makes her so amazing. Ms. Leslie is already Alaska’s Teacher of the Year in my book!”

Read the complete story and learn about *Gulp Life* at [KPBSD.org](http://KPBSD.org), or [KPBSD Kim Leslie, 2021 Alaska Teacher of the Year Finalist](#).

**KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-TWO DIVERSE SCHOOLS**

**The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to empower all learners to positively shape their futures.**  
ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK PORT GRAHAM  
RAZDOLNA SELDOVIA SEWARD SOLDOTNA STERLING TUSTUMENA TYONEK VOZNESENKA

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**1 OF 1**