

# Patricia M. Larson

## Award for Excellence in Elementary Education

Nomination Deadline: March 1

The Brookings School District is fortunate to have many exemplary teachers. The Patricia M. Larson Award for Excellence seeks to select the best representative of the many outstanding teachers in K-5 education. The award honors this individual as a teacher/mentor having great impact on children.

The Patricia M. Larson Fund provides an annual award of \$2,000 to a Brookings K-5 Elementary Teacher and \$2,000 to the school where he/she is employed. This award is intended as a sign of appreciation and encouragement for ongoing teaching and learning. The use of funds is unrestricted.

### **Award Criteria:**

- Demonstrates exemplary enthusiasm and professional commitment towards children's learning
- Exhibits a genuine love of children and advocates for the best interest of students, addressing their emotional and developmental needs
- Creates a positive, supportive, respectful atmosphere for personal and academic achievement to flourish
- Respects and appreciates each student as an individual with unique abilities
- Employs a wide range of educational and scientific research in teaching – pulling the best out of each student
- Demonstrates a commitment to professional growth, school improvement, and community involvement
- Displays personal and professional integrity
- Is a licensed teacher

### **Nomination Process:**

- Any Brookings colleague, school administrator, student, parent, or community member may make the nomination.
- The nomination shall include:
  - ❖ The name of the nominated teacher
  - ❖ The affiliated school

- ❖ The name, address and phone number of the person submitting the nomination and their relationship to the nominee
- ❖ An essay of 250-500 words describing:
  - a) The reason for the nomination
  - b) The nominee's strengths in relation to the award criteria
  - c) The nominee's best practices in teaching
  - d) The nominee's commitment to children's education
  - e) The nominee's involvement in the community beyond their regular teaching duties
- ❖ Two letters of support which share personal observations of how the nominee demonstrates a commitment to excellence in teaching. One letter should be from an employee within the Brookings School District; the other from a parent or student (current or former).

Mail the nomination to the Brookings Foundation:

(1028 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brookings, SD 57006)

**Deadline is March 1.**

One finalist will be selected by a committee consisting of board members from the Brookings Foundation as well as the Executive Director of the Children's Museum of South Dakota and the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Brookings. The recipient shall be notified in late April.

*The Patricia M. Larson award is an on-going tribute in memory of Patricia M. Larson, who dedicated her life to children's education through her activities as a parent, educator, volunteer and philanthropist. After earning a degree in Elementary Education from the College of St. Benedict, Patricia began her teaching career in Austin, Minnesota. In 1964, Patricia and her husband, Dale, moved to Brookings where she spent two years teaching at Hillcrest Elementary. Among her many volunteer activities, Patricia was a member of PEO and taught catechism at St. Thomas More Catholic Church. She also was President of the Larson Foundation which founded the Children's Museum of South Dakota and has granted funding to numerous statewide projects focusing on childhood learning.*