

DUY V. NGUYEN

ASSEMBLYMAN
District 8



LEGISLATIVE BUILDING:

401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747
Office: (775) 684-8537
Fax: (775) 684-8533
Email: duy.nguyen@asm.state.nv.us
www.leg.state.nv.us

DISTRICT OFFICE:

7322 South Rainbow Boulevard, #198
Las Vegas, Nevada 89139-0040

Office: (725) 277-1570

Email: ad8@duyforNV.com
Twitter: @duyforNV

State of Nevada Assembly

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To the National Teacher of the Year Award Committee:

I enthusiastically recommend Mrs. Laura Jeanne Penrod for the prestigious 2024 National Teacher of the Year award. During the recent legislative session, I witnessed Mrs. Penrod's profound impact as an educator in our school and as a driving force in promoting civic engagement and community service. Her unwavering commitment to empowering students to become active, informed, compassionate citizens sets her apart as an extraordinary educator and leader.

Mrs. Penrod, who teaches English, AP Literature & Composition at Southwest Career Technical Academy, has consistently exceeded the traditional curriculum to integrate real-world civic engagement and public service into her teaching. Her innovative approach combines rigorous academic content with practical, hands-on community projects, providing students with invaluable opportunities to apply their learning in meaningful contexts. Through her guidance, students have undertaken various projects, from organizing a local meeting with elected officials to participating in legislative sessions to passionately lobbying to support the financial literacy bill I sponsored, thereby gaining practical insights into state government and community dynamics. Thanks to Mrs. Penrod and her student's activism, the legislation on financial literacy passed unanimously in both the assembly and the senate. Shortly thereafter, the bill was signed into law by our governor.

However, what truly makes Mrs. Penrod exceptional is her ability to inspire a spirit of active citizenship among her students. She teaches about civic responsibility and social justice and models these values through her actions. She leads by example, dedicating her time outside the classroom to various community initiatives and encouraging her students to join her in these efforts. Her participation in local charities, volunteering at community events, and advocating for educational causes has inspired countless students to follow suit.

Additionally, Mrs. Penrod's impact extends beyond the realm of civic engagement. Her classroom reflects inclusivity, critical thinking, and mutual respect. She fosters an environment where every voice is valued, and students are challenged to think deeply about their role in the wider world. Her dynamic teaching style, combining discussion, debate, and collaborative projects, ensures her lessons are educational and transformative.

In a time when understanding and actively participating in civic life is more important than ever, Mrs. Penrod's contributions to nurturing informed, engaged, and responsible citizens cannot be overstated. Her dedication to her students' academic, personal, and civic growth exemplifies the highest ideals of teaching and community service.

In conclusion, Mrs. Jane Penrod's unparalleled commitment to fostering civic awareness, innovative teaching practices, and deep impact on students' lives make her an exemplary candidate for the 2024 National Teacher of the Year award. Recognizing her with this honor would not only affirm her outstanding work but would also shine a light on the critical importance of civic education in shaping the minds and hearts of our future leaders.

I wholeheartedly recommend Mrs. Penrod for this award and am eager to see the continued influence of her remarkable work in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duy V. Nguyen', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Duy V. Nguyen
Assemblyman