

McLaughlin Community Alliance Group Receives SDEA's 2023 Friend of Education Award

The South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) presented the 2023 Friend of Education Award to McLaughlin Community Alliance Group. The Friend of Education is given to individuals or organizations that contribute on a statewide basis toward achieving quality public education for all students.



“The McLaughlin Community Alliance Group through their Mission Statement is committed to uplifting and empowering the community through hope, healing and forgiveness for the good of all. They fulfill this with their vision to engage all people to help each other be their best and find strength through positivity and love, while living, working, learning and playing together as a community,” wrote McLaughlin Education Association President Carissa Aberle. “The group is responsible for organizing the CAG Lyuha Othi Resource Center and Thrift Store. Partnering with other local groups such as

the Boys and Girls club and the McLaughlin School District. The Community Alliance group provides so many resources and activities that pull our community together. They have sponsored events such as the National Night Out highlighting many of the communities first responders to providing the children of the community activities such as Kids Fun Day, Summer Movies in the Park, and most recently the Halloween Parade and Trunk or Treating. During Christmas time, they let all students pick out and wrap a gift to give to someone in their family (from the thrift store). While these activities may not be direct work in the classrooms, this group provides opportunities for family engagement and support which focuses on the whole child and their wellbeing. They are such a positive light for the students and the community of McLaughlin.”

“We are honored to present this year’s Friend of Education Award to the McLaughlin Community Alliance,” said SDEA President Loren Paul. “The sense of community they are building is paying off with an increase in school attendance. They are a shining example of what some hardworking committed individuals come together to make a difference for their neighbors and the students in their community. I am excited to see what they do next.”



SDEA/NEA Friend of Education Award

Nominate a person or organization for the Friend of Education Award by visiting ‘Grants & Scholarships’ at [SDEA.org](https://www.sdea.org). The nominee must be a person or organization outside of SDEA/NEA, have proven to be a genuine friend of education, educators, and/or students, reflect the philosophy and principles of the association and through leadership, acts and support must have made contributions toward achieving a first-rate education for students in South Dakota. **Deadline: November 1**