



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Pam Gingue of Tok named Alaska Afterschool Superhero

Fairbanks- Due to COVID-19, the challenges facing our students, families, and communities this year couldn't be greater, and once more afterschool professionals across Alaska rose to meet these challenges to ensure student success! Each year, the Alaska Afterschool Network recognizes 5 Afterschool superheroes that have gone above and beyond to change the lives of Alaska's children and ensure access to high-quality afterschool programming. Pam Gingue, Program Coordinator of Gateway After-school Programs (GAP) in Tok exemplifies extraordinary dedication to the field of afterschool.

A true hero can stay positive and optimistic even in the face of adversity. Last summer, Pam stepped up to the plate to coordinate and offer a summer day camp program for kids in Tok while facing the innumerable challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. On top of these challenges, during this summer the school building was not available due to a sprinkler system replacement, forcing the program to operate outdoors on a hockey rink. Despite all these hardships, Pam remained a positive and energetic force in her afterschool program. According to those who work with her, Pam has the type of energy that is contagious. One of her colleagues says that during the program "she met students every morning with a smile on her face and words of encouragement. **She has made a difference in many kids' lives just by being herself.**"

The full list of five Afterschool Superheroes for 2021 are:

MO DART | Teen Program Coordinator, Boys and Girls Club of Fairbanks (Fairbanks, AK)

PAM GINGUE | Program Coordinator of Gateway After-school Programs (GAP), Alaska Gateway School District (Tok, AK)

JAZZANNE GORDON-FRETWELL | Executive Director, North Star Youth Court (Fairbanks, AK)

SIERRA MOSKIOS | R.E.C. Room Coordinator, Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic R.E.C. Room, (Homer, Alaska)

JULIE JOHNSON | Environmental Educator, US Bureau of Land Management Campbell Creek Science Center (Anchorage, AK)

For more information on the Alaska Afterschool Network, visit akafterschool.org or to read more about all 5 Superheroes, [go to our blog](#).

[Alaska Afterschool Network](#) is statewide collaboration supporting, strengthening and advocating for afterschool programs in Alaska and is a project of [Alaska Children's Trust](#). Contact [Thomas Azzarella](#), Director, for more information.

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