



News Release

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Symetra and the Seattle Seahawks Head Back to School by Honoring Two Parkwood Elementary Teachers

BELLEVUE, Wash.—(Aug. 27, 2019)—Symetra and the Seattle Seahawks kicked off the 14th season of Symetra Heroes in the Classroom[®] yesterday with a first for the teacher-recognition program, simultaneously honoring not one but two teachers from the same school in Shoreline, Washington.

Parkwood Elementary School kindergarten teacher Carla Salmon and third grade teacher Renee Iverson thought they were attending the regular district staff meeting that precedes a new school year for Shoreline Public Schools. Both were curious when Superintendent Rebecca Miner deviated from the agenda to invite Parkwood Elementary School Principal Ann Torres to help her introduce two surprise guests — and stunned when Symetra Public Affairs AVP Sharmila Swenson and Seattle Seahawks Partnership Activation Manager Emily Sikma announced their names.

Iverson and Salmon are two of the 16 K–12 teachers that will be honored for educational excellence by the Symetra Heroes in the Classroom program during the 2019 NFL season.

“The difference Renee Iverson has made in our daughter’s life and in those of the students who have been fortunate to have her as a teacher simply cannot be overstated,” wrote district colleague Curtis Campbell in his nomination. “My wife and I will often refer to Mrs. Iverson as the ‘child whisperer’ because she has an innate ability to connect with each student she works with to develop a trusting relationship and understand each child’s needs and strengths. She leverages those relationships, along with her exceptional teaching knowledge, to support students reaching their true potential.”

Parent Annie Culliton applauded the dedication and imagination Carla Salmon brings to the classroom in her nomination. “Kindergarten is a tricky age. I’ve never seen a more equipped teacher than Carla, who fosters and nurtures individuality, creativity, diversity, teamwork and confidence in young minds. Society will be much better served having more teachers like Carla mold these minds at an early age, setting them on the path of loving school as a goal above all else,” wrote Culliton. “I’m excited to see a brighter future because of the foundation and passion Carla is building in our future leaders because she sees the big picture and is coloring it in one day and child at a time.”

Both teachers will receive \$2,000 from Symetra for classroom supplies and two tickets to the Seattle Seahawks season-opening game with the Cincinnati Bengals on Sept. 8.

About Symetra Heroes in the Classroom[®]

Since 2006, Symetra Heroes in the Classroom has celebrated 264 K–12 teachers across the Puget Sound and contributed \$640,000 for schoolbooks, classroom supplies and equipment, and in support of innovative student programming.

Honorees are recognized in front of their students and peers at surprise in-school presentations, where Symetra makes a \$2,000 donation to each Hero’s school. In addition, each teacher receives tickets to a Seahawks home game and is acknowledged during an on-field presentation at CenturyLink Field.

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Teachers may be nominated by their principal, district staff, student or student's parent. The honorees are selected based on their ability to make a real difference in students' lives; to go above and beyond in their day-to-day responsibilities; and to help students build life skills.

For more information about the Symetra Heroes in the Classroom program or to nominate a teacher, visit www.SymetraHeroes.com/Seahawks.

About Symetra

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