

To Alaskans, Denali means “great one”, and the Anchorage School District is proud to have employees that display greatness in the areas of achievement, service and dedication. Twice each year a committee of Anchorage School District employees selects a number of co-workers and a team of colleagues that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to its mission of educating students for success in life. The Denali award is the highest level of recognition a staff member may receive from the district.

The support staff members receiving the Denali awards are BPOs Alfredo Morales at Tudor Elementary, and Percy Williams at Mears Middle School.

Known as Mr. Alfredo around school, he makes sure the building is clean and tidy for students and fellow staff members. In his nomination for the award, Principal Michelle Smith writes, “It’s obvious that Mr. Morales has a strong work ethic, sees his job as a reflection of him, takes pride in his work, and understands the importance of a well-organized school environment.” Other Tudor coworkers say in the past four years that Alfredo has spent at the school, he’s always been very positive, hard-working and willing to go the extra mile. Students even wrote in to support Alfredo’s nomination. Here is a little of what they had to say:

- ☺ “You’re a really good cleaner” –Alec
- ☺ “You are very cool and nice to me”-MaKayla
- ☺ “He says good morning to everyone. He takes out the trash because he is a strong guy and he is a nice guy” – Brenden
- ☺ “Mr. Alfredo is a good and nice man. If we have trouble he is on the double!”-Fatima
- ☺ “I love your work! It is awesome how you clean the cafeteria!” – Daija

As part of his nomination, students also put together four colorful books of praise for Mr. Alfredo.

Percy Williams, BPO at Mears Middle School is also honored with the Denali award for support staff. Percy has been an ASD employee for 26 years, spending the majority of his years at Mears and Dimond High. Percy’s direct supervisor, Principal Michael Perkins says in his 19 years as an educator, he cannot think of any teacher, administrator or support person who has had a more positive influence on the lives of thousands of students in the Anchorage School District. Percy’s coworkers say he takes a few moments each day to make the school a great place to work. In a letter of support student Avery Hudson writes, “I know Percy may not think that he did much, but he has taken time for me and others to help guide us. I think you need to take a bow Percy. I’m slowly getting wiser and I have to thank you for that”