

# Michele Wollert

602 E 31st Street  
Vancouver, WA 98663  
360-993-0106  
[michelewollert@gmail.com](mailto:michelewollert@gmail.com)

January 12, 2016

Clark College  
Office of the President  
Baird Administration Building  
1933 Fort Vancouver Way  
Vancouver, WA 98661

To: Iris Awards Committee

Re: Nomination of Anne McEnerny-Ogle for 2016 Iris Award

It is a privilege to write this letter supporting the nomination of Anne McEnerny-Ogle for the 2016 Iris Award. Her vision for our community and leadership skills are extraordinary, as is her long list of accomplishments and impressive energy to serve others.

I first became acquainted with Anne in the mid 1990's when she was an award-winning math teacher in my sons' middle school. I was grateful and impressed by her patient mentorship of both her students and colleagues, encouraging and inspiring them all to love the learning process and to honor and nurture their individual strengths. Her national and state reputation as a master teacher and practitioner of student-centered service brought positive attention not only to her outstanding professional work, but to the entire school community, which earned National School of Excellence honors. Anne was a standout teacher of quality and character who consistently led by her own enthusiastic, ethical example.


What I knew about Anne from my school observations of her was reinforced by her dedicated community leadership after my family and I moved to Vancouver's Shumway area in 2003 and became one of her neighbors. I joined her on the Shumway Neighborhood Association Board in 2005, where she served as the long-term chairperson, and was honored to work closely with Anne on a variety of projects and community advocacy over the many years since. Anne is undaunted by difficult and demanding tasks and inspires others to persevere when it is tempting to give up. For example, when an unlicensed massage business established itself among our family homes and on the route taken daily by our children walking to school, she joined neighbors in an 18 month process of working with city and county government leaders to successfully strengthen local ordinances against such unlicensed practitioners. And, when the original proposed light rail line of the now-defunct Columbia River Crossing project was routed on Main Street, Anne singlehandedly met with distressed business owners and residents along this route, documenting their concerns, and making sure their opposition was brought

forward to the government decision-makers. As a result of her efforts as a neighborhood leader, the original light rail route was moved from Main Street to an area on E. 17th Street with reduced negative business impact.

Anne is a leader who does not simply delegate and watch others work from her commands. She rolls up her sleeves, digs in, gets dirty if needed, and works beside others in regularly-scheduled service projects that range from highway trash removal, park cleanup and maintenance, Friends of Trees winter planting, and food delivery and emotional support to Vancouver police officers and firefighters. As a Neighbors on Watch (NOW) volunteer, Anne and the other NOW volunteers supplement the work of the Vancouver Police Department in patrolling our neighborhoods regularly. Although retired from her teaching job, Anne continues her mentorship of youth through Boy Scout leadership, helping them improve each other and their communities through camping experiences, regular troop meetings, and Eagle and other service projects. Just last month, for example, I saw Anne with a group of scouts in a neighbor's yard, helping them break down an enormous fallen tree, hauling away the wood for donation to others. I marvel at how she is able to juggle her city councilor responsibilities with so many other duties with consistent stamina, good humor and warmth. What is most profound to me about Anne's community service is this: whenever I witness a neighbor or constituent who calls on Anne for assistance, I have never seen her hesitate to help. Many times it is not even necessary to ask her directly. Anne simply sees a need and is often the first to jump in to organize a collaborative remedy with others. Her positive enthusiasm for public service is truly infectious and has helped inspire new volunteers because she knows how to make hard work fun.

I realize that there is limited space in my recommendation letter to provide an inclusive list of everything I have seen Anne do to support her community in such a selfless manner, so I will end with an honest, from-the-heart summary: In my life-long experiences working and volunteering in the public sector, I have encountered few community leaders who are as dedicated, reliable, hard-working, or committed as Anne. She is an extraordinary role model across a variety of settings and situations for others seeking leadership opportunities and truly embodies the high character and achievement described in the Iris Award qualifications. Please consider this an unreserved and enthusiastic recommendation of Anne for this well-deserved honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Wollert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michele Wollert, M.S.

School Psychologist (retired)

Certified in Washington and Oregon