**Press Release**

**Nebraska Foundation for Visually Impaired Children Awards 2025 Dr. Benton and Harriet Kutler Outstanding Vision Teacher Award to Meagan Macy**

The Nebraska Foundation for Visually Impaired Children (NFVIC) is proud to announce that Meagan Macy, a Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Orientation & Mobility Specialist with Educational Service Unit 13 (ESU 13) in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, has been named the recipient of the 2025 Dr. Benton and Harriet Kutler Outstanding Vision Teacher Award.

Meagan began her work at ESU 13 in 2019 following her service in the Nebraska National Guard and experience as a fifth-grade classroom teacher. At the time, ESU 13 did not yet have a full-time caseload for vision services, and Meagan split her role between supporting students with visual impairments and teaching life skills math in the LifeLink program. She later pursued certification as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired, as well as national certification in orientation and mobility—a credential that had not been held at ESU 13 in several years.

Today, thanks to Meagan’s strong advocacy and leadership, ESU 13’s vision program has expanded significantly. Between Meagan and her part-time assistant, the program now serves more than 50 students, ages 0–21, across the 14,000-square-mile Panhandle region. Her work has increased awareness of vision needs across Western Nebraska and brought much-needed resources and support to rural schools and families.

Meagan is also the visionary behind *“Yay, Sports!”*—the first summer camp of its kind in Western Nebraska for youth who are blind or visually impaired. Created to address the lack of local opportunities, the camp empowers students through self-advocacy, adapted recreation, and independent living skills, all within their own communities. Through her innovation and collaboration with local agencies, Meagan is helping to eliminate barriers and build equitable access to meaningful enrichment experiences.

Her impact is widely felt and deeply appreciated. One parent shared, “Meagan is truly a godsend. She thinks outside the box, never passes judgment, and always offers encouragement and creative solutions to help us navigate [an] already difficult life.” A colleague described her “unwavering commitment” to students with visual impairments and her “profound influence on the lives of her students, families, and colleagues.”

The Kutler Outstanding Vision Teacher Award, established by NFVIC in memory of longtime board member Dr. Benton Kutler and his wife, Harriet, honors excellence in teaching and service to Nebraska’s blind and visually impaired students. Now in its third year, the award includes a $10,000 grant and a commemorative plaque, presented during a school-based ceremony.

The NFVIC congratulates Meagan Macy on this well-earned recognition and celebrates her dedication to empowering students and expanding access to essential services throughout Western Nebraska.