

## Maria Romera earns ISBE's 'Those Who Excel' award

ADDISON — Last week, the Independent learned that Army Trail School bilingual kindergarten teacher Maria Romera will be recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education's "Those Who Excel" Awards Program at a banquet on October 22 in Normal. The program annually recognizes and honors people who have made outstanding contributions to public and nonpublic elementary and secondary education.

Romero, an Addison resident, has taught District 4's young learners for more than 20 years, serving in classrooms at Lincoln, Ardmore and Army Trail Schools. She feels that the sense of community is a strong positive aspect of the American education system and stresses to parents how important it is for their children to feel as though they belong—looking after each other and taking pride and ownership in their

school, their parks and their neighborhoods.

Romero's passion for her students is evident.

"I want the children to learn to treat each other well and to pay forward the kindness and help they receive from others," she said. "Tomorrow's leaders will come from these classrooms and everything we are able to teach them is an investment in our future, as well as theirs."