



**Kenai Peninsula Borough School District  
Golden Apple Award**

*Eric Soderquist*

**Programmer and Analyst  
August 5, 2013**

Eric Soderquist has been employed in the Information Services department for twelve years. And that doesn't count the time as a kid when he was managing the Tustumena's school network while his mother was a teacher there, or his years working for us after school while a Soldotna High School student.

After winning the Caring for the Kenai contest his senior year and graduating high school, Eric, like many other bright young people full of promise, took off for college. After one semester and with straight A grades, he returned home unchallenged by college. Fortunate for the people of the Kenai Peninsula, Eric found a challenging environment in which he could thrive—KPBSD's Information Services department.

Eric is the technical architect and designer of much of what we have accomplished with technology infrastructure. He often charts our course in the technical arena. He is the filter through which all strategic technology must pass. Ours is a complex computing environment with many individual pieces fitting together like a puzzle; Eric is the person who makes sure all the pieces fit and will work together. When one piece is upgraded it may require other pieces to be upgraded. Or perhaps some pieces may not work in conjunction with the upgraded piece. Eric is masterful in this type of change management, keeping everything running smoothly and continually bringing new functionality to students and staff.

Eric has an incredible breadth and depth of knowledge, which seems to have no bounds. His thirst for knowledge is unequalled. He seems driven to find the answer—to solve the problem. A thorough researcher and trustworthy advisor, Eric can be relied upon to deliver the systems we need—even when we may not understand we need them! He has guided the KPBSD to Storage Area Networks, virtualized servers, district-wide wireless, upgraded server capabilities, always increasing our efficiency or reducing our costs.

A capable programmer in his own right, Eric has written most of the programs that automate our processes eliminating untold labor costs—certainly saving hundreds of thousands of dollars per year in Information Services staffing costs alone. Many districts may have one computer person per school, oftentimes a teacher, to deal with technology issues. We have four field techs supporting over 7,000 computers district-wide. No one can do that with the small staff we have. That is largely due to Eric's insightful design, creative problem solving, and technical understanding of what can be possible.

Jim White, the director of information services claims, "No single person has had a greater impact on the day-to-day learning environment for students or staff than Eric Soderquist. The Technology Plan of 1999 promised a better computing environment than the district had known, but it was really Eric that delivered on the promise of the Tech Plan. It was Eric's vision, Eric's sweat and labor, Eric's time and dedication that transitioned the district to a reliable, standardized computing environment where teachers could largely rely on their technology working every day. Eric designed and assembled the underlying foundation that makes technology work here and keeps it working."

Eric's most recent accomplishment is orchestrating the migration to Microsoft's Windows 7 operating system. A truly remarkable feat, in many ways revising or revamping work done in the twelve years we've been totally PC-based. Anyone who has used a computer here, saved a file, or checked email on their smart phone has been influenced and touched by Eric's work. Everyone's work has been made easier because of his efforts.

Eric is the smartest guy in the room. He's the smartest guy in every room. We're just glad he's working in one of our rooms. And his best work is likely still ahead of him.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education is proud to recognize Mr. Eric Soderquist for his dedication to the computer users of the school district, past, present, and future.