National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lory DuFrain Honored with Friend of NAFIS Award

Washington, D.C. – November 2, 2026 – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) is proud to announce that Lory DuFrain, retired Business Manager at Wagner Community School (SD), has received the Friend of NAFIS Award. Presented at the 2026 NAFIS Fall Conference, the award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Impact Aid Program and the communities it serves.

Impact Aid helps public school districts offset lost local tax revenue caused by nontaxable federal property, including military installations; Indian trust, restricted, and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; federal low-income housing; and national parks and laboratories. This funding enables districts like Wagner—which receives Impact Aid because it serves students who live on or whose parents work on Yankton Sioux tribal lands—provide essential educational resources, including teachers, technology, and facilities.

"Lory DuFrain exemplifies what it means to be a Friend of NAFIS," said Cherise Imai, NAFIS Executive Director. "For decades, she has brought deep expertise, steadfast advocacy, and a commitment to helping schools and students succeed. Her generosity in sharing her knowledge and supporting school leaders nationwide has strengthened our entire community. We are proud to recognize her service and grateful for all she contributes to this work."

Throughout her career, DuFrain has been a dedicated champion for Impact Aid, attending NAFIS conferences for decades and participating in numerous leadership fly-ins. She serves as South Dakota State Chair for NAFIS and President of Impact Schools of South Dakota (ISSD). She has also played a longstanding leadership role in the National Indian Impacted Schools Association (NIISA), including service on its Board of Directors and as President.

DuFrain has also dedicated significant time to helping fellow educators and school officials understand and navigate Impact Aid. A trained facilitator for the Federally Impacted Schools Educational Foundation (FISEF), she has helped lead workshops, co-presented NAFIS conference sessions on the basics of Impact Aid, shared best practices for student counts, and volunteered at every NAFIS conference since the volunteer program began.

Through her advocacy, leadership, and service, DuFrain has strengthened the Impact Aid community and advanced the program on behalf of federally impacted school districts across the country. The entire NAFIS Family congratulates her on this well-deserved honor and thanks her for her enduring commitment to the schools, students, and communities that depend on Impact Aid.

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The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) represents approximately 1,100 federally impacted public school districts that collectively serve nearly eight million students nationwide. Located on or near nontaxable federal property – including military installations; Indian trust, restricted, and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; federal low-income housing; and national parks, laboratories, and other federal lands and facilities – these districts face unique funding challenges. NAFIS advocates for Impact Aid, a federal education program that helps offset lost local tax revenue and the additional costs of serving students in areas impacted by a federal presence. Learn more at www.nafisdc.org.