

Press Release

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Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Submitted by Marcia Elledge, Coordinator for Classified Personnel

Ashe County Schools

Ashe County Schools is pleased to announce the Ashe County Schools Teacher Assistant of the Year. Dr. Todd Holden, Superintendent, along with other administrators from Ashe County Schools Central Office and Blue Ridge Elementary surprised Kathy Shepherd, Teacher Assistant at Blue Ridge Elementary, with the announcement today. She was selected by a team of school system personnel and community leaders. Teacher assistants play a vital role in the education of Ashe County students and we value their dedication and on-going service to our schools. These paraprofessionals provide instructional support and clerical assistance for the classroom teacher daily. They are constantly in motion from the time they arrive until they leave.

Kathy Shepherd, a teacher assistant with a Kindergarten classroom, has been employed with Ashe County Schools since 2007. Mrs. Callie Grubb, Principal at Blue Ridge Elementary states, "It is a joy to have Kathy Shepherd on staff. Mrs. Shepherd provides strong instructional support to the students in her classroom. She is positive with all her interactions and cares very much about the students and staff of Blue Ridge Elementary."

Mrs. Shepherd's comment on her philosophy of education includes the statement, "Education is the start for lifelong success." Mrs. Shepherd says that a teacher assistant must be able to listen and understand the child and find out what works best for that child.

The criteria for selection included:

- Employment as a teacher assistant with Ashe County Schools for a minimum of three years
- Must possess characteristics of a team player exemplifying collaboration and a willingness to be flexible and understanding
- Provide a source of positive and enthusiastic energy in the classroom
- Exhibit compassion toward the students

Each school nominated their Teacher Assistant of the Year to represent their colleagues during the 2016-2017 year. The following teacher assistants were nominated by their peers at their school:

Dwayne Farmer, Ashe County High School

Ann Combs, Ashe County Middle School

Becky Rose, Mountain View Elementary

Natasha Goodman, Westwood Elementary

