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EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

MEET THE June 2024 Winners



Kathy Behrendsen

Director of Federal Programs,
DISD Edu Services

Since joining Dickinson ISD as the Director of Federal Programs in 2020, Kathy Behrendsen has shown exceptional dedication in providing assistance to campus principals, librarians, and parent engagement coordinators. Kathy has repeatedly stepped up to support the district in critical times. On at least two occasions, she has been called upon to support a struggling principal, assess campus situations, or even take over as interim principal, all while continuing to fulfill her regular job responsibilities with excellence. She always smiles and leads with love, instilling a sense of motivation and high morale among her colleagues. Her “lead with a YES” attitude has inspired many and created a supportive and collaborative work environment. Kathy's commitment to the “Gator” good is evident in her willingness to go the extra mile. She often sacrifices her own time and energy to ensure the success of her colleagues and students. She acts with the highest levels of honesty and integrity, making her a role model within the district.

Laura has worked tirelessly to bring the Calder Coffee cart to our campus. This elite and professional operation gives Starbucks a run for its money. Students in our special education classes work the coffee cart and learn valuable life skills along the way. The students bake throughout the week and then walk around campus using communication skills to ask staff if they want to purchase from the cart. They prepare the drinks and handle the money. Laura has also allowed our non-verbal students to participate by using voice boxes and visual charts. There is a whole “brand” for the Calder Coffee cart, and staff can purchase branded items. Students get to wear branded items, such as aprons when they serve on the cart.



Laura Adams

Special Education Teacher,
CRES



Shelby Cruse

Counselor, MJHS

Shelby is the concierge of McAdams Junior High School. Every day, she goes above and beyond her job description to ensure that students and staff are comfortable and cared for. Shelby makes a point daily to attend to the needs of teachers and support them in the classroom. She never discounts the daily challenges teachers face and is eager to assist them however she can. She makes it a point to get to know every student she interacts with, regardless of grade level. She is a safe haven for students who are struggling with domestic issues and trauma, and she is great at building rapport with parents. Shelby is an invaluable asset to this campus and to Dickinson ISD, and she definitely makes a BIG IMPACT every day!