

**EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR
2016-2017**

JEFFERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

CAROL MILLER – DISTRICT OFFICE



Carol Miller has dedicated over 25 years to Jefferson School District. She is known as a staff member who demonstrates knowledge of her job duties and she is an asset to the curriculum department, providing support to our school EL Paraprofessionals, Aides, Secretaries, Clerks, Librarians, Instructional Coaches, Teachers, Administrators as well as District Office Staff. Carol's work impacts every student and staff member in the Jefferson School District. When a new challenge arises she is not afraid to learn, grow, and find answers and resources.

Carol has supported the school sites during a very busy time in education. In the curriculum department she has navigated new standards, new curriculum, new state assessments and a new accountability system. The information she provides to staff and our school community is critical and timely. Carol is always willing to go above and beyond in her district office role. She not only keeps up with the secretarial demands at her desk but she can also be found moving boxes and boxes of curriculum and manipulatives around our great district.

Carol Miller is a valued member of the District Office Team and our department is stronger thanks to her commitment and hard work.



KAREN McMAHON – TRAINA SCHOOL



- Karen McMahon has been a dynamic member of the JSD instructional team since 2003
- Originally hired to teach at Jefferson, she has taught 5th grade at Jefferson, Monticello, and Traina and has spent the last 10 years teaching 3rd grade at Traina.
- As a 3rd grade teacher at Traina, she has earned a reputation for excellence as an instructor as well as a colleague. She is very positive and enjoyable to work with.
- Miss McMahon takes great care to provide her students with the best service possible. She works tirelessly to enhance the quality of experience for the students in her entire grade level. She is passionate about teaching and learning both. Miss McMahon is a valued member of our site Instructional Leadership Team, and has taken a leading role in implementing the tenets of Professional Learning Communities both in her grade level and in our school.
- Miss McMahon is admired by her colleagues as an indefatigable educator to whom they can go for ideas, strategies and instructional recommendation. She is always willing to help. She exhibits a genuine enthusiasm for her students and is committed to ensuring that every one of our students learns at high levels.



MARISSA FELLER – TRAINA SCHOOL



- Marissa Feller has been a valued member of the Traina family since 2009 as a parent volunteer.
- From the time her first child enrolled, she became a presence on campus, doing great things to enhance the culture and climate for the entire school. Mrs. Feller began working officially in 2013 when she became Campus Aide.
- Mrs. Feller is meticulous and professional in all that she does. She cares for our students and our school. Her work with our students demonstrates her love of the kids, her creativity, and her precision.
- Mrs. Feller is an integral part of our Intervention Team and in that role ensures that students with the greatest need get the best possible help.
- Outside of her contractual hours, she continues to be an invaluable member of the Traina family as a volunteer. She decorates for our functions and performances, she ensures the office is festive for holidays, she has even painted and decorated the staff restrooms!
- Marissa Feller is a tremendous asset to the Traina Community.



DORI SIMSON – HAWKINS SCHOOL



Dori Simson has been a Kindergarten teacher at Tom Hawkins Elementary since 2003. She respects her students and peers alike. Dori creates a sense of community in her classroom. She is understanding, warm, and a joy to be around.

One of Dori's strengths is that she is able to engage students in all aspects of learning. This is probably due to the fact that although she works with Hawkins' youngest students, she listens to their voice and sincerely tries to answer them thoughtfully. This year, Dori has begun implementing GLAD strategies with gusto with the goal of helping all students be successful.

She is described by her colleagues as patient and kind in her delivery and is a true gem at Tom Hawkins.



PAULINE MELCHOR – HAWKINS SCHOOL



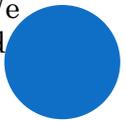
- Pauline Melchor has been an invaluable team member on the Tom Hawkins campus in the capacity of Campus Aide. When duty called for Kindergarten aides this past year, Pauline quickly volunteered to work additional hours daily. She takes pride in her work and is the upmost professional at all times.
- Among her colleagues, Pauline is a recognized leader and puts hard work and heart into her daily work. She thrives as an Instructional Aide because she cares about every child and works diligently to ensure they can be successful. One of her most distinct attributes is her gentile manner and kindness. Students respond to her positive disposition and dedication to our community.



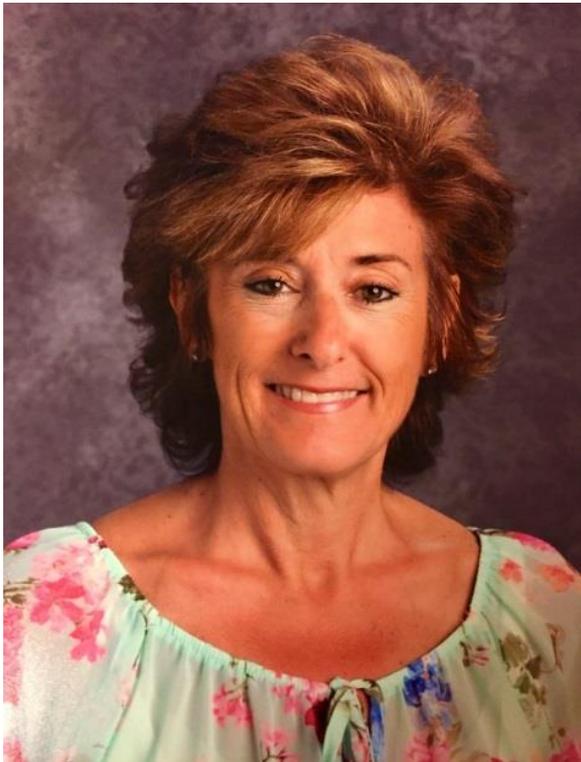
RACHEL HENLEY – MONTICELLO SCHOOL



- It is an honor to present Rachel Henley, Monticello School's certificated Employee of the Year. Rachel has been an employee in the Jefferson School District for 10 years. She previously taught at a private school and has taught fifth, fourth, second, and kindergarten. Rachel also volunteered to teach music for minors at Hawkins for two years where she was also a para professional.
- Rachel is very organized and driven! She has been on many, many committees. Some of them include: School Site Council, Positive Behavior Intervention Supports, Instructional Norms, Site Leadership, Illuminate, GATE, DELAC, and RISE. She is currently working in the capacity as a coach for Jefferson and Monticello Schools.
- Rachel said, "I became a teacher because I always wanted to be a positive influence and make a difference in the lives of my students." She wanted students to know that she truly cared. Rachel shared that when she was a little girl, she would go to the library, check out sets of books and teach the neighborhood kids in her garage. She called them reading groups!
- Rachel has been married to Scott for 22 years. They have three sons, Christopher, Johnathon, and Benjamin.
- Rachel is a treasured member of our school community. We appreciate you, Rachel. Congratulations! You have earned this honor and award.



JULIE COCKERHAM – MONTICELLO SCHOOL



- It is an honor to present Julie Cockerham, Monticello School's classified Employee of the Year. Julie began her career in our district as a campus aide in 2000. She then worked as a clerk in the cafeteria, and has been a clerk in the Monticello School office since 2010.
- Julie is efficient and task orientated. She's creative too. Our newsletters look beautiful because Julie takes pride in making them this way. Julie keeps me on track with our very important attendance component.
- Julie was oftentimes down volunteering at school in her daughter's classroom, so she applied for a position and has stayed in the district ever since. She enjoys working at Monticello School and said, "The best part of my job is this school, working with our staff, and our students."
- Julie has been married to her husband, Jim, for 27 years. Julie and Jim have three children. Two of them are married and one has just finished dental school.
- Julie is a treasured member of our school community. We appreciate you, Julie! Congratulations! You have earned this honor and award.



ANDREA JENNINGS – JEFFERSON SCHOOL



- Mrs. Andrea Jennings is currently an 8th grade teacher and was previously a 5th grade teacher at Jefferson School. She has made a positive impact on students, families and staff for over 14 years. Over the years, Mrs. Jennings has been involved on campus through School Site Council, meeting with students and families, Great Valley Writing Project, Science Olympiad, planning graduation activities, designing yearbooks... and the list goes on. In these leadership roles, Mrs. Jennings is highly respected by her colleagues and her calm demeanor makes it easy to work with her.
- When you ask students about Mrs. Jennings they describe her as: someone who allows the students to get to know her; and as someone that acknowledges the students in class if they are doing something well and also seeks them out if they are struggling or have a bad grade. Mrs. Jennings ALWAYS has the students' best interest at heart. Furthermore, she works with past students that are currently in high school or college. Mrs. Jennings finds a way to connect with each student through conversation, reading and writing. She is a gem.
- Thank you, Andrea Jennings, for your dedication to Jefferson School and for your genuine passion for education. We appreciate you! Congratulations.



SABU ABRAHAM – JEFFERSON SCHOOL



- Mr. Sabu Abraham has been an employee at Jefferson School for over 9 years as a food service worker. Sabu shows up early every day, put-together, and with a huge smile on his face. He greets each of us with a genuine hello and then heads to the cafeteria to do what he does best.
- Sabu is a quiet and humble leader. He leads by example by treating others fairly, connecting with people, and providing food, with love, for our students on a daily basis. Sabu is someone who lifts up your spirits and makes you want to be a better person. We see these characteristics when he interacts with parents, students, staff members and his own family.
- Thank you, Sabu Abraham, for caring about our school, student nutrition, and for leading by example. We need more Sabu's in this world! We appreciate you and congratulations!

