

## Press Release

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Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Submitted by Marcia Elledge, Assistant Director Human Resources

Ashe County Schools

In March of 2017 Ashe County Schools introduced **The Classified Employee of the Year Recognition program**. This is a new way to include all classified employees which would encompass the following categories: bus driver/monitor, bus garage, cafeteria staff, custodian/maintenance, office support and teacher assistants at all sites.

The overall purpose of this recognition is to pay tribute to the tireless efforts of our county's classified school employees. These employees are vital staff members who play key roles in creating a school environment that promotes student achievement, safety, and health. The goals are to:

- Identify and honor exemplary classified school employees through the system
- Select one Classified Employee of the Year to recognize

Nominations were received from employees, neighborhood partners, students, and parents/guardians. A scoring panel made up of administrators – county-wide, school and central services based – scored the nominations using a prepared scoring rubric. The top finalists had the opportunity to complete a questionnaire and compete in a county-wide interview.

**We are excited to announce the recipient of the Classified Employee of the Year for 2017-18 is Mrs. Cindy Pugh, custodian at Blue Ridge Elementary.** Mrs. Phyllis Yates, Superintendent, along with other administrators from Ashe County Schools Central Support Services and Blue Ridge Elementary surprised Cindy Pugh with the announcement today.

Cindy Pugh has been employed with Ashe County Schools since April 2007. Mrs. Callie Grubb, Principal at Blue Ridge Elementary states, "Cindy is dedicated to her job. She takes pride in her work. She wants the best for the students and staff. "

One individual who nominated Cindy put it this way, "Cindy is the hardest working individual I have ever met. No job is too big, no job too small. She does everything with a cheerful heart. She loves the children and is happy to help so that they may have the best day at school possible.

The following is a list of employees who were also nominated:

\*Geneva Spencer, Office Support – Ashe County Schools Central Support Services

\*Michael Harless, Custodian – Westwood Elementary

\*Drema Farmer, Teacher Assistant w/EC – Blue Ridge Elementary

\*Ed Robinson, Custodian – Westwood Elementary

\*Donna Faircloth, Cafeteria Assistant – Westwood Elementary

Becky McNeill

Bryan Matkins

Carlton McNeill

David Higgins

Dean Bare

Dwayne Farmer

Jenny Simcox

Jodi Efird

Jennifer Huffman

Pam Potter

Penny Greer

Rebecca Miller

Ronald Turnmire

Juanita Turnmire

Sarah Blevins

Sharon Lucas

Tammy Mallette

Tammy Woods

Tammy Woodie

Tim Walton

\*finalists