

Allison Wright Named ESPOY for 2025



Above left, Allison Wright with IRSD administrators and Board of Education members. Above right, (from left) IRHS Assistant Principal Neil Stong, ESPOY winner Allison Wright, IRHS teacher Loriann Sentman and IRSD Superintendent Dr. Jay Owens.

Allison Wright, a paraprofessional at Indian River High School, has been named the Indian River School District’s **Educational Support Professional of the Year for 2024-2025.**

The announcement was made at a special ceremony at the Seed and Sapling events venue in Frankford on October 10.

In her role as a 1:1 paraprofessional, Ms. Wright is consistently praised for building positive relationships with students, treating every student with respect and kindness, and going the extra mile to provide the best possible services to the special needs student population. She also assists with the IRHS Unified Sports teams.

“I have been consistently impressed by Ms. Wright’s commitment to the students at Indian River High School since she started with us in September of the 2021-2022 school year,” said Indian River High School Assistant Principal Matthew Keller. “She plays a vital role in maintaining an inclusive culture at Indian River in several ways. She can be found helping students with disabilities when they push into the general education setting during their pathway courses. In this setting, she provides various accommodations and encouragement to ensure students are able to access the materials and curriculum presented to them. Additionally, Ms. Wright can be found helping with ex-

tracurricular activities including prom and Unified Sports.

“Ms. Wright works diligently with our most complex students. Working with students with intellectual disabilities, autism, etc. is not an easy feat. However, Ms. Wright does so with a ‘can do’ attitude daily. She assists with a positive energy and engages with students in a genuine manner. I am grateful for Ms. Wright’s contributions to our school.”

Allison has also won praise from IRHS parents.

“We had the honor of having Ms. Wright as our son’s 1:1 paraprofessional for his first two years in the district. Her attitude and energy are infectious – not only to the students, but staff and parents alike,” an IRHS family stated in a letter of recommendation. “She has the very rare and unique ability to show strength and control while keeping calm and keeping the child’s needs at the forefront. I have not only seen this with my child when she was his para, I see it every time I go to a Unified Sports event. She is always a step ahead and understands what needs to be done before it is asked.”

Allison was chosen as IRSD’s overall winner from a pool of 16 candidates, one from each school and the district office. She is now eligible for the state ESPOY award, which will be announced on December 2.

Photos of school winners, Page 3

Indian River School District

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From the Superintendent



Dear Parents,

On October 5, the district hosted its first-ever We Are IRSD Festival on the campus of Sussex Central High School and I couldn't have been more pleased with the response from our community. Hundreds of local residents turned out for a morning and afternoon of food, games, giveaways, prize raffles and entertainment from district students. I was filled with pride at watching band and choir students from throughout the district show off their talents. It was wonderful to have so many community organizations, food vendors and

school officials on hand to make it an event that was not only fun, but informative. I would like to commend Nika Reid, Mary Caligiure, Melanie Marshall and all of the IRSD staff members who worked so hard to create such an enjoyable event for our community. Photos from the day can be found on our social media pages and on Page 4 of this newsletter.

Congratulations to Indian River High School paraprofessional Allison Wright for being named IRSD Educational Support Professional of the Year. It was our pleasure to honor Allison and all of the school winners at a special ceremony at Seed and Sapling on October 10. The evening was a celebration of the support personnel that are integral to keeping our schools running efficiently and effectively. These individuals include paraprofessionals, constables, custodians, cafeteria managers and administrative assistants. I would like to commend Allison not only for her tireless work as a 1:1 paraprofessional, but also for her efforts in assisting with the IRHS Unified Sports teams. She is the epitome of what the ESPOY recognition program is all about. See Page 3 for photos of all of the school winners.

Earlier this fall, we implemented a new weapons detection system for select athletic events at Indian River and Sussex Central high schools. The system has been utilized at football games this fall and will also be used at indoor athletic events during the winter season. It will help IRSD staff identify prohibited items such as firearms, knives and other weapons and remove them from the event setting. It is imperative that we ensure the safety of students, staff and community members at athletic events at our high schools. This new screening process will allow us to do so with minimal inconvenience to those in attendance. As always, our mission is to ensure a safe, respectful and enjoyable experience for all visitors to our campuses. I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we work to create a safe environment for our fans.

I hope you have rewarding school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jay F. Owens
Superintendent

IRSD Educational Support Professionals of the Year



Jaqulynn Decker
Southern Delaware School of
the Arts



Urias Deleon-Velasquez
Georgetown Middle School



Deneen Drummond
Georgetown Elementary
School



Barry Gaines
Phillip C. Showell Elementary
School



Lori Goodhart
Long Neck Elementary
School



Letoya Jackson
Howard T. Ennis School



Elizabeth Kreiser
North Georgetown Elementary
School



Tammy Mitchell
Selbyville Middle School



Nichole Pantuliano
John M. Clayton Elementary
School



Emily Quillen
IRSD Early Learning Center



Laura Reed
East Millsboro Elementary
School



Chris Shelton
Millsboro Middle School



Krista Showalter
IRSD District Office



Cindy Wilson
Lord Baltimore Elementary
School



Sherrie Wright
Sussex Central High School



Allison Wright
Overall Winner
Indian River High School



District Hosts First-Ever Community Festival



The Indian River School District hosted its first-ever We Are IRSD Community Festival on Saturday, October 5 at Sussex Central High School.

Hundreds of districts residents turned out on a warm afternoon to partake in a variety of fun activities and watch students from several district schools display their musical talents.



More photos and videos from the event can be viewed on the district Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) pages.

Location Change for October Board Meeting

The location of the **October 28** Indian River Board of Education meeting has been changed to Indian River High School. The public portion of the meeting will begin at approximately 7:00 p.m.

The location change was necessary due to ongoing renovations to the auditorium at

Sussex Central High School. Please disregard any printed materials that list the meeting location as Sussex Central High School.

Indian River High School is located at 29772 Armory Rd., Dagsboro, Delaware.

Visit us on the web at irsd.net

PCS Students Join "The Circle"



Phillip C. Showell Elementary School is excited about its new young men's leadership group called The Circle. Last year's homeroom teachers nominated third- and fourth-grade boys based on their leadership potential. Along with receiving support from staff and having numerous guest speakers, The Circle has bi-weekly sessions and conducts a variety of service projects. Members will also eventually serve leadership roles in the building. Above, students pose with Ronnell Jacobs of RJ Martial Arts (left) and conduct a car wash at the school in October.

Millboro Hosts Final Home Football Game

On Thursday, October 3, Millsboro Middle School hosted what was likely its final home football game ever at the campus on 302 East State Street.

The team invited former MMS players to join them on the sidelines during the game. The school will be relocating to a new building next year, making this potentially the final scholastic football game at the campus after more than 70 years.

The field hosted Millsboro High School football contests starting in the 1950s, Sussex Central Junior High School games starting in the 1970s, Sussex Central Middle School games in the 1990s and Millsboro Middle School football contests from 2008 to the present.

MMS celebrated with a 32-16 win over Delmar Middle School in the final game.



SDSA Middle Schoolers Attend Pennsylvania Renaissance Fair

Southern Delaware School of the Arts middle school students recently attended the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire where they participated in a variety of events, activities and performances.

The SDSA Show Choir performed a madrigal for a music competition and select eighth-grade art students competed in a "Coat of Arms" competition where they were awarded third place.

Other highlights included a knighting ceremony where sixth-graders Alice Rones and Alexander Vogel were knighted as Lord and Lady of the Faire for their academic and artistic excellence.



Freeman Donates to Art Programs at Six Schools

The Freeman Arts Pavilion and the Carl M. Freeman Foundation recently made generous donations to the art and music programs at six district elementary schools.

Each school received \$1,000 in art supplies collected during the Freeman

Arts Pavilion's art supply drive in August. The Carl M. Freeman Foundation then provided a \$1,000 matching donation to each school's music department.

Schools receiving donations were Georgetown, North Georgetown, Long

Neck, East Millsboro, John M. Clayton and Phillip C. Showell elementary schools.

The Howard T. Ennis School also received a school supply donation valued at approximately \$400.