

# Ashe County Schools Honors March Employees of the Month



Ashe County Schools is proud to recognize two exceptional team members as our **March Employees of the Month**: **Mr. Stefan Kunz**, History, English and CTE Teacher at Ashe Early College High School, and **Ms. Tonya Sizemore**, Afterschool Programs Director for Central Support Services. Both employees consistently go above and beyond in their roles, demonstrating a deep commitment to students, colleagues and the success of our schools.

Selected by their peers for this honor, **Stefan and Tonya** represent the dedication, creativity and leadership that help make Ashe County Schools such a special place to learn and grow. Whether inspiring students in the classroom,

supporting staff members, or creating meaningful opportunities for students beyond the school day, each brings a passion for service that makes a lasting impact across our district.

The praise shared by their colleagues highlights what makes these employees so valuable:

## **Stefan Kunz — History, English, CTE Teacher, Ashe Early College High School**

*“Mr. Kunz is an incredible asset to Ashe Early College. Teaching multiple subjects, sponsoring our Music Club, coordinating events like Open Mic Night and graduation music, and always stepping up to collaborate with colleagues, he consistently goes above and beyond for our school community. His dedication to students, willingness to support his peers, and leadership in professional development truly reflect the spirit of Ashe Early College.”*

*“Mr. Kunz has worked on the logo for the new Ashe County Middle School, even the vector lines and colors needed. He was not expected to do anything on his day off and did not have to do it at all. He’s a team player and a great teacher—and creative, too.”*

## **Tonya Sizemore — Afterschool Programs Director, Central Support Services**

*“Tonya truly goes above and beyond to ensure students in our afterschool program have a fun, safe, and enriching environment every single day. She supports her staff with care and consistency, works seamlessly with the school, and always shows up with a positive, solutions-focused attitude. Most importantly, Tonya is an essential part of expanding student learning beyond the classroom—creating opportunities for growth, confidence, and connection. Simply put, our afterschool program would not be as amazing as it is without her. Her dedication, leadership, and heart make a lasting impact on both students and staff, and she is absolutely deserving of this nomination.”*

*“Tonya is the backbone of our afterschool program. She bends over backwards to support her staff, always making herself available to answer questions, problem-solve challenges, and provide encouragement when it’s needed most. No matter how busy her day is, she takes the time to listen*

*and ensure her team feels supported, valued, and appreciated. Her open-door approach and genuine care create a work environment where staff feel confident, motivated, and empowered to do their best for the students... She leads by example, never asking her staff to do anything she wouldn't do herself. She also leads with kindness and patience, and it shows in the relationships she builds with students and families alike."*

Ashe County Schools is deeply grateful for the dedication and heart that **Mr. Kunz** and **Ms. Sizemore** bring to their work each day. Their commitment to supporting students, uplifting colleagues and strengthening school programs reflects the very best of our district, and we are proud to celebrate the difference they make in our school community.

###