BOARD OF EDUCATION APPRECIATION BANQUET HONORS STANDOUT EDUCATORS



Above: Retiring after 33 years at Maury City Elementary, Katie Spence (center) is joined by (left to right) Principal Christine Schwartz, tenure recipient Chelsea Terry, MCE Teacher of the Year Latoya Henning, and Assistant Principal Kiley Doyle.

"I am a teacher; I am many people rolled into one. Like a sculptor, I mold a child's mind with daily experiences. Like an artist, I paint an image of a bright future for each student. Like a mother, I love, nurture, and patiently guide the children to make wise choices. I am a therapist, historian, counselor, politician, referee, lawyer, nurse, and judge. But, most of all, I am proud that the simple experiences that are shared in my classroom each day really do make a difference in someone's life. I touch the future. I TEACH!"

Those are the meaningful words included on the printed program for the Crockett County Board of Education Appreciation Banquet, put there by the school district's Director of Instruction, Curriculum, and Assessment, Dr. Judy Hoover. She doesn't take them lightly, and includes them on the program to ensure that the educators being honored – and future honorees as well – can see that the awesome responsibilities faced by classroom leaders are respected, understood, and fully appreciated by the Board.

This year's festivities were held last week at The Old Country Store in Jackson, where the Board honored its Teachers of the Year, Principal of the Year, Supervisor of the Year, the district's Tenure Recipients, and one retiring teacher – Maury City Elementary School's Katie Spence, who has devoted 33 years to her classroom.

"For more than three decades, Katie has been a constant in our building — a steady presence, a helping hand, and someone who has always been willing to step in wherever she was needed," said MCES Principal Christine Schwartz. "Her kindness, hard work, and love for MCE have impacted countless students, staff, and families through the years.

While we are so excited for her next chapter, there is no doubt that she will leave a big hole at Maury City Elementary. Katie, thank you for your years of service, your servant heart, and the many ways you have helped make MCE such a special place."

Each of the five schools within the Crockett County School District selected a Teacher of the Year recipient to be honored. Those named were: Friendship Elementary's Sabrina Anglin; Gadsden Elementary's Carol Vestal; Maury City Elementary's Latoya Henning; the Middle School's Leigh Ann Hastings; and the high school's Julie Nass. Vestal (Pre-K to 4th Grade), Hastings (Grades 5-8), and Nass (Grades 9-12) were also tabbed as the System-Wide Teachers of the Year.

Gadsden's Marsha Foust was named Principal of the Year and Laura Bell – the district's Director of Business & Finance – was tabbed Supervisor of the Year.

Additionally, the Board recognized those who were granted tenure within the district: David Barker, Josephine Crenshaw, Charles Evans, Jade Kennedy, Tammy Gordon, Chelsea Terry, and Chloe Lollar.

Crockett County Director Schools P. A. Pratt welcomed all the honorees and distributed the administrative awards. School principals handed out the teacher recognitions.



Above: Maury City Elementary's retiring teacher Katie Spence, with CCSD ESL teacher Randa Pratt.



Above: Friendship Elementary's Teacher of the Year Sabrina Anglin is flanked by Principal Leah Camp and Assistant Principal Austin Kissell.

Below: Gadsden Elementary and CCSD System-Wide Pre-K/4th Grade Teacher of the Year Carol Vestal (left), pictured with Assistant Principal Ashley Dodd, Principal Marsha Foust, and tenure recipient Chloe Lollar.





Above: Principal of the Year Marsha Foust from Gadsden Elementary.

Below: Tenure recipient Charles Evans.





Left: CCMS and CCSD System-Wide Grades 5-8 Teacher of the Year Leigh Ann Hastings, with Principal Becky Winegardner.

Below: CCHS and CCSD System-Wide Grades 9-12 Teacher of the Year Julie Nass.



Below: CCSD Supervisor of the Year Laura Bell.



Right: Tenure recipient Tammy Gordon.

Below: Maury City Elementary Teacher of the Year Latoya Henning.







Right: Tenure recipient Jade Kennedy.

Below: Tenure recipient Josephine Crenshaw.



Above: Tenure recipient David Barker.





Right: Gadsden Elementary Teacher of the Year Carol Vestal.