# Ashe County Schools Celebrates November Employees of the Month

Ashe County Schools is proud to recognize **Carmelina Mahaffey,** Exceptional Children (EC) Instructional Assistant at Ashe County Middle School, **and Lieutenant Colonel Wes Young,** Senior Army Instructor at Ashe County High School, as the district's **November Employees of the Month!**

Nominated by their colleagues for the dedication, compassion, and commitment they bring to their work each day, these educators are making a meaningful difference in the lives of students, creating positive learning environments, and helping young people reach their full potential.

## Carmelina Mahaffey – EC Instructional Assistant, Ashe County Middle School




Carmelina Mahaffey is being recognized for the creativity, kindness, and genuine care she brings to her work with students at Ashe County Middle School. Her colleagues say she consistently goes above and beyond, finding new and engaging ways to support student progress, introduce new concepts, and make learning interactive and enjoyable.

One colleague shared, "Carmelina goes above and beyond for the students she works with. Always thinking of new ideas to help with student progress, creating interactive activities to help students learn new topics, showing kindness and respect to all students no matter what. We're so lucky to have her here at ACMS!"

Another colleague praised her contributions both in and beyond the classroom, saying, "Carmelina is a wonderful co-teacher, and teacher assistant. She is someone who goes above and beyond for our kids. She's a wonderful person and one of my best friends. She is always working on something fun for us to do in the classroom. We have a great team and she makes it a wonderful place to work. Carmelina balances work and motherhood with grace, and she's a wonderful example of what a great employee is in my eyes."

Her colleagues' comments reflect an employee who not only supports student learning but also strengthens the relationships and teamwork that make a classroom a special place to be. Her creativity, compassion, and positive attitude make her a valued member of the ACMS family!

## Lieutenant Colonel Wes Young – Senior Army Instructor, Ashe County High School

Lieutenant Colonel Wes Young is being recognized for his outstanding leadership, dedication to student success, and the tremendous time and energy he invests in Ashe County High School's JROTC program and Raider Team.




As Senior Army Instructor, Colonel Young teaches students important life skills, including leadership, discipline, responsibility, communication, respect, teamwork, and perseverance. But his influence extends well beyond the classroom. He regularly dedicates time before school and on weekends to work with the Raider Team, helping students build confidence, develop strong relationships, and discover what they can accomplish together.

His colleagues describe him as an instructor who genuinely believes in his cadets and encourages each of them to become their very best, both as students and as young adults. One colleague noted that "when your teenager WANTS to get up a 5 a.m. and be at practice three times a week," it speaks volumes about the value they see in the program and the positive environment Colonel Young has created.

Colonel Young's contributions also extend into the school and broader community. From organizing the school's annual Veterans Day program to coordinating activities and opportunities that enrich students' experiences outside the school day, he consistently gives of his own time to make a difference. His colleagues recognize that much of this work happens behind the scenes, but its impact on students and the community is significant.

As one colleague shared, he is doing much more than leading a program or coaching a team. He is "investing in kids, building character, creating opportunities, and making memories that will last long after graduation." His ability to connect with students, inspire them to encourage one another, and help them recognize their potential is a testament to the kind of leader and mentor he is.

These employees represent the very best of Ashe County Schools—whether through creating meaningful learning experiences, offering encouragement and support, or helping students develop the skills and confidence they will carry into adulthood.

**Carmelina Mahaffey and Colonel Young**, thank you for representing the very best of Ashe County Schools**.** Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!

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