

Nominee: Annette Strausbaugh
Organization: Abraxas Youth Center
Years Employed: 18
Current Position: Education Liaison

I am excited to nominate Annette Strausbaugh for consideration as JDCAP's 2018 Staff Person of the Year. Annette is the consummate professional and for 18 years has been making a difference in the lives of everyone she interacts with.

As an Educational Liaison, Annette has a role in just about every administrative function of our school. She diligently works with approximately 200 Pennsylvania School Districts, and three other states to obtain/share student records, manage enrollments, attendance, and billing, while consistently problem solving and answering questions. Internally, Annette works closely with local and corporate business offices, maintains a working relationship with our Local Education Agency, and manages thousands of active and closed student files. As an “administrator”, Annette’s exceptional time management and communication skills lead to her success.

As an Educational Liaison, Annette is viewed as an informal leader within the education department and throughout the building. Her confidence, tenure, and bubbly personality make her a “go to” for numerous staff that may need guidance in all things “Abraxas” or just need a friendly ear. She is extremely approachable and has a positive reputation for problem solving and making sound decisions that benefit all.

As a professional, Annette is so much more than her title and accomplishments above indicate. Annette’s passion for her co-workers and the work we do with kids is her greatest asset and she refuses to stand on the sideline confined by title.

Recognizing her administrative skill set, Annette began a Microsoft Certification Program for students and staff in 2011. She diligently worked to earn numerous certifications herself, 23 to be exact, which include Microsoft Office 2010 Master Certification, as well as Microsoft Office 2013 Master Certification and she is only one exam away from her Microsoft Office 2016 Master Certification. Since inception, over 300 certifications have been earned by students and one certification classroom has expanded to four classrooms, one of which is within our neighboring Abraxas Leadership Development Program because, in absence of a certified educator, she wanted to ensure those students had opportunity as well.

Recognizing her compassion for people, Annette actively participates in the Abraxas Core Team, a voluntary group of staff members committed to encouraging the principles of Trauma Informed Care throughout the program. She role models and emulates the concepts daily and works to establish a culture where staff and students alike feel supported and safe to express themselves and grow.

Paul J. Meyer is quoted as saying “Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort.” Annette’s daily productivity is unmatched and a true testament to her focus not only administratively but to the Abraxas community overall making her an exceptional candidate for JDCAP’s 2018 Staff Person of the Year.

Name of person submitting: Melissa Kennedy; 717-749-2615

Position: Education Director