

## Board honors outstanding CCPS staff for exemplary contributions to school system

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**Waldorf, MD** - May 15th 2019 - The Board of Education at its May 14 meeting honored four Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) staff members for their contributions to students and the school system. Honored were Julie Glorioso, Melissa Palmer, Corey Specht and Kimberly Stackhouse-Isaac.

Glorioso is a special education teacher at Mary B. Neal Elementary School. She has been teaching at Neal for the past 11 school years and has a passion for working with students in need of extra assistance. Recently, Glorioso collaborated with her colleagues to create a smaller classroom for student interventions. She helped to transform the space into a nurturing and safe learning environment. Her experience in working with students with disabilities makes her a go-to resource for teachers in need of solutions to help children achieve success. Glorioso has a kind and calming demeanor, and strives to ensure all students receive the instruction they deserve. She is patient in her interactions with students and provides positive encouragement and support. As the special education team leader, Glorioso helps to organize special education meetings with inclusion teachers to discuss student caseloads. She also takes time out of her day, such as during her lunch or planning time, to help a student or provide coverage for other teachers. Neal Principal Deborah Brown said Glorioso is an extraordinary teacher. "Ms. Glorioso is an exemplary teacher in every way possible. She is always willing to help any student or offer advice to a colleague. It is humbling to watch her as she works with children and goes about her job. She is always smiling and positive," Brown wrote in a nomination letter.

Palmer is a teacher in the Education Careers Career and Technology Education (CTE) program at North Point High School. She is the lead teacher and oversees students enrolled in the program. In the classroom, Palmer models excellence in instruction. She is a role model for students who are studying to become teachers. She emphasizes the importance of relationship building and supports her students in their application of curriculum in the field. Students in the Education Careers program complete internships at neighboring schools, and work with children who attend the North Point licensed childcare center. Palmer is not only certified as a secondary education teacher, but she maintains her licensing components in childcare as well. She does so to stay current with trends in education and brings her knowledge back to students in the classroom. Palmer is a member of the North Point CTE leadership team and SkillsUSA advisor. Several of her former students have achieved awards at the national SkillsUSA event and go on to become certified teachers. North Point Principal Daniel Kaple said Palmer is committed to the success of her students. "Always aware of her responsibility to teaching future educators, Mrs. Palmer models excellence in instruction. Her classroom is a window into effective instructional strategies and the importance of building relationships with students. Mrs. Palmer is known among her colleagues and students as being kind, dedicated and an exemplary educator," Kaple wrote in a nomination statement.

Specht is a fifth-grade teacher at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School. He is known among students and staff as a teacher who demonstrates enthusiasm and passion. He goes above and beyond to create a welcoming learning environment, and builds positive relationships with all Mitchell students. Students often come to Specht for a high five or a word of encouragement. In the classroom, he teaches his students that character matters and leads by positive example. He is kind, fair and friendly in his interactions with students, but also firm and consistent. His students understand that Specht will provide them with an honest and fair opinion. He has served as the math team coach for the past 10 years and robotics coach for eight years. The math team consistently places among the top five teams at local challenges, and last year received a first-place team win. Under Specht's leadership, the robotics team received a first-place win this year in a recent challenge held at the College of Southern Maryland. Mitchell Principal Nicholas Adam said Specht is a leader among his colleagues. "A good leader is trustworthy, honest, kind, generous and fair. Students can always trust Mr. Specht when they turn to him for help with a problem. Mr. Specht is very enthusiastic and passionate about doing anything he can to create the best environment for our students and our school," Adam wrote in a nomination statement.

Stackhouse-Isaac is a math teacher at Mattawoman Middle School and is known among her colleagues as a master teacher. She demonstrates a genuine concern for students, attention to detail and embraces leadership opportunities. She is patient in her interactions with students and works with them until they understand a concept or lesson. Stackhouse-Isaac takes pride in building relationships; she is well liked by her students and respected by her colleagues. She is the National Junior Honor Society sponsor and works with more than 45 student members to plan activities. Stackhouse-Isaac coordinates community service initiatives for students and has sponsored the Mattawoman Student Government Association. She is sought by math teachers in need of a mentor, and is often observed by teachers new to the school system. Stackhouse-Isaac strives to help her students succeed and constantly looks for ways to increase student understanding of class content. Mattawoman Principal Sonia Blue said Stackhouse-Isaac is an excellent teacher. "During the four years I have known Ms. Stackhouse, I have had a front row seat to teaching excellence. In my time working with Kimberly as a supervisor and mentor, I can attest to her genuine care for students, attention to details and leadership capacities," Blue wrote in a nomination statement.

The Board each month honors CCPS students and staff members selected by their principal for recognition.