Newport - Mesa Unified School District

Newport - Mesa Unified School District Recognizes Classified Employees of the Year
April 13, 2016

Photo (from left to right): Director of Classified Personnel Kristen Clarke, Board Member Karen Yelsey, award winners Wayne Wescott, Jesse Murray, Vicki Martini, Laura Chirinos, Jean Paul Vigneault, Lucky Nguyen and Personnel Commissioner Susan Meyer.

The Newport - Mesa Unified School District (N-MUSD) Board of Education recognized the 2016 Classified Employee of the Year winners at the April 12, 2016 Board meeting. The Classified Employee of the Year Awards Program recognizes employees that go above and beyond the expectations of their job duties to provide exemplary service to students, families and colleagues.

Classified employees are nominated by principals and district directors in the following six categories; Child Nutrition, Maintenance and Operations, Office and Technical, Instructional Assistant, Support Services and Security, and Transportation. Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Current, permanent employee
- Rank and file employee, not management or supervisory position
- Minimum of five years of service in nomination category.

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NMUSD congratulates the following 2016 Classified Employees of the Years:

**Laura Chirinos, Child Nutrition**
Ms. Laura Chirinos has worked for the NMUSD for nearly 20 years and has served as a Nutrition Services Specialist III at Estancia High School for the past nine years. She is responsible for planning and coordinating the production of more than 1,000 meals daily.

Ms. Chirinos is a fast learner, quickly promoted because of her ability to assimilate the wisdom gained from working at multiple schools throughout the district. She has incorporated this broad knowledge to satisfy the unique dietary needs of students and build strong relationships with her co-workers who often seek her guidance and advice. She has created a positive and welcoming atmosphere for students and a fun and a collaborative work environment for her colleagues and encourages the staff to further their education and work experiences so they too can be promoted.

**Jean Paul Vigneault, Maintenance, Operations and Facilities**
Newport-Mesa's Classified Employee of the Year from the Maintenance, Operations and Facilities team, Mr. Jean Paul Vigneault, has consistently proven himself to be an exceptional employee who regularly goes above and beyond to ensure the safety and security of staff, students and the public. With his extensive knowledge of custodial operations and standards, he has established himself as an invaluable asset, able to fill in for virtually all custodial positions throughout the district. In addition, he is always willing to assist anyone who asks, is known for doing the right thing no matter the circumstance, and is widely admired throughout the school community for his foresight and compassion.

**Wayne Wescott, Office and Technical**
Highly regarded for his tenacity, self-motivation and exceptional customer service, Office and Technical Support Technician Mr. Wayne Wescott, has impressively advanced his position within the District throughout his twenty-one years of employment.

Collaboratively leading a team of technicians, he has helped package and deploy hundreds of business and instructional applications to thousands of computers throughout more than thirty schools and multiple district offices. His distinguished work on automated software deployment of the latest instructional and business applications have proven crucial to the success of District-wide operations and positively impacted both employees and students. Consistently updating his skills and knowledge, he regularly leads training sessions for information technology staff and has proven to be of immeasurable value to the schools and the overall District.

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Classified Employees of the Year (Continued…)

Jesse Murray, Para-Educator and Instructional Assistance
Mr. Jesse Murray, a special education instructional assistant at Corona del Mar High School, is an exceptional employee who provides consistent encouragement and motivational support for both students and staff. He frequently chaperones student outings and actively participates in school fundraisers, events and rallies. He has become a household name within the Corona del Mar school community.

Known by many families as a mentor and friend to special needs students, he is able to manage and inspire with a sense of accountability and empathy. In addition, this consummate professional is the aide everyone desires to have in their classroom because of his vital data collection abilities, flexibility and reliability, as well as his dedication to and affinity with students. Mr. Murray is the quintessential role model for what an effective student-focused leader should be.

Vicki Martini, Support Services and Security
With an outstanding reputation and greatly respected in her field, Vicki Martini has had an immense impact in the community during her twenty-four years with the district.

She is a strong supporter of youth organizations and a volunteer for numerous events and fundraisers. Ms. Martini also has been masterful at building collaborative relationships throughout the district as well as the community at-large. She has established work training programs and facilitates student job placement at local businesses, nurtured beneficial relationships with multiple county and state agencies and attends local Better Business Bureau and Chamber of Commerce functions to promote, support, and build partnerships for District programs. This vast network of resources has been assembled all in the service of students, culminating in far-reaching results that ultimately empower students to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living and integration into all aspects of society.

Lucky Nguyen, Transportation
Newport-Mesa’s Classified Employee of the Year from the Transportation category, Lucky Nguyen, is known for his commitment to his job and the students with whom he interacts daily. His attentive, friendly, and approachable demeanor is instrumental in providing excellent service. He recognizes when students are struggling and is more than willing to proactively provide extra care when needed.

The ultimate team player, he consistently volunteers wherever and whenever a need arises, including at the School Bus Roadeo Competitions, and is regularly sought out by his fellow drivers for his friendly and effectual advice. He has not missed a day of work in more than five years, exemplifying his remarkable dedication to his job, as well as to all with whom he interacts. This is part of the reason NMUSD consistently receive compliments on his exceptional service.

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