



Dr. Rydell Harrison
Superintendent of Schools
860-945-4801

Board of Education
10 DeFOREST STREET
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT 06795
Telephone: (860) 945-4800
FAX: (860) 945-2775



To: All District Staff

From: Dr. Rydell Harrison, Superintendent of Schools

Re: Paraprofessional of the Year Announcement

Date: May 16, 2019

Watertown Public Schools is excited to announce that Colleen Ferrucci has been chosen as the 2019-20 Paraeducator of the Year. Ms. Ferrucci began her employment with Watertown in 1986 and she has worked in many settings and schools, from lunchrooms to in-school suspension, and with students from Kindergarten through Transition. Currently, and for most of her 33 years of dedication, her friendly face and enthusiastic energy bring comfort and delight to the students and faculty of Watertown High School. Ms. Ferrucci greets the school community each morning as students and staff arrive through the main entrance. It is obvious that Ms. Ferrucci "loves [her] job" and she recognizes the influence that she can make to help students and staff feel supported. She can always tell if a student is having a tough day and is there to just listen or take a walk with the student to help get them refocused. Throughout the years, Ms. Ferrucci has made strong connections with many staff members, which she then utilizes to best serve the needs of all students. She also never sits still and is willing to jump in and help out in any way needed. She often seeks out students during study halls to work with her one-on-one when she notices that they are falling behind in classes. Her warm demeanor and approach have helped her establish strong relationships with many students, who trust her and go to her when they need help with a personal problem or classwork. Ms. Ferrucci, when asked about her contributions as a paraeducator, stated matter-of-factly, "If I can bring sunshine to somebody, I will."

We would like to honor and congratulate the other four nominees who participated in the interview process for Paraeducator of the Year: Rose Farrow, John Trumbull Primary School; Gail Defrancesco, Swift Middle School; Viola Mustafi, Polk Elementary School and Wendy Goodman, Polk Elementary School. All are exemplary in their dedication, flexibility, reliability and initiative to support the whole school community.

We are proud to have Colleen Ferrucci represent Watertown Public Schools and to be considered for the statewide Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award.