

## SUMTER DISTRICT SCHOOLS

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### PRESS RELEASE

**Date:** February 17, 2016

**From:** Allison Nave, Coordinator of Professional Accountability

**Subject:** Sumter School Related Employee of the Year

At the regularly scheduled School Board Meeting on February 16, 2016, ten education support personnel were recognized for being named the School Related Employee of the Year. Family, friends and co-workers accompanied these honorees to a reception that took place from 5:00 to 5:30 PM at the Sumter County School Board Office, and to the awards presentation ceremony that followed. Individual well-wishes were given by Superintendent, Rick Shirley and by each school board member. "We are so honored to have such quality staff within our school district. They don't just do their jobs well, they also do them with great compassion for our students," said Superintendent Richard A. Shirley.

Congratulations go to the following Sumter District nominees:

Marsha Bressette	Bushnell Elementary School
Cheryl Giella	District Office/SPC/Facilities
Christy Gaines	Lake Panasoffkee Elementary School
Lidia Garza	Sumter Alternative School
Tina Harrell	South Sumter High School
Walter Field	South Sumter Middle School
Tommy Messer	Transportation
Lisa Shoaf	Webster Elementary School
Eartha Taylor	Wildwood Elementary School
Holly Peninger	Wildwood Middle High School

The process for selecting the School Related Employee of the Year begins at the school or site level where nominees are selected by their peers. The school or site winners are then asked to submit a portfolio that includes a history of trainings, recognitions, contributions to their school and community, and letters of recommendation. The portfolios are reviewed by a committee of district administrators and three finalists are chosen. The three SREY finalists selected for 2016 were: Cheryl Giella (District Office), Walter Field (South Sumter Middle School) and Eartha Taylor (Wildwood Elementary School).

Several weeks later, these three finalists were interviewed by a committee consisting of business and community leaders, not employed by the Sumter County School District. From these interview sessions, a district winner was chosen. This year, Ms. Eartha Taylor of Wildwood Elementary School, received this prestigious honor. Ms. Taylor will now move into the next phase of the program- the state competition.

The Florida School-Related Employee of the Year Program recognizes outstanding education support personnel for their contributions to their schools and communities. The program honors one state representative and four finalists who have demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication in the performance of their jobs, thereby earning them the respect and admiration of students, teachers, administrators and parents.

Sumter District Schools are proud to recognize these individuals because they have made it a priority to positively impact the lives of students in Sumter County and they have achieved the respect and admiration of their peers and co-workers. Congratulations to each honoree!