

USAWC educators gather to honor local area school educators

By Elena Patton, Public Affairs Office 16 July 2021



USAWC Acting Commandant, Maj. Gen. David Hill, presents educators from the Big Spring School District with the Excellence in education award.

Teachers and educators from regional public and private schools were honored at the Excellence in Education reception hosted by USAWC Acting Commandant Maj. Gen. David Hill.

Army War College educators gathered with local K-12 educators to celebrate one another's commitment to education, connect with each other, and honor those who work with military children.

Teachers and educators from regional public and private schools were honored at the Excellence in Education reception hosted by USAWC Acting Commandant Maj. Gen. David Hill. Leaders of the War College and Carlisle Barracks recognized exceptional contributions of dozens of top educators: teachers, principals, counselors, coaches and administrators. It took place July 14 at Carlisle Barracks' Letort View Community Club.

"This is one of the most meaningful events we host here, each year. From my fresh perspective to Carlisle, that is true from three perspectives," said Hill. As a parent, he explained that his children changed schools as often as he changed duty stations. As a military commander, he appreciates educators whose commitment to military children allows Soldiers to focus

on their own readiness. And as the Army War College leader, he developed a deep appreciation for the work it takes to design and deliver an effective curriculum, he said.

Christina Spielbauer, Superintendent of Carlisle Area School District, spoke formally to the group about the partnership between parents and schools.

“[Local educators] persevered through an incredibly challenging year. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and commitment to your students, their families, and one another during the last school year,” said Spielbauer. “You all made this year very successful.”

The educators spoke of the contributions of military children in schools.

David Robinson, Special Education Teacher at Yellow Breeches Middle School, worked with a military student, his family, and the previous school district, to help the student transition from a large school district and ensuring he had all the support he needed. “It was somewhat of a challenge, but that is why we do this job. That’s the fun part,” said Robinson. “It was a great year and a very rewarding experience. I am going to miss that child and his family.”

“It is very valuable to us as a team,” said Brad Zell, Boiling Springs High School athletic coach, about integrating new kids into the sports teams. “The military kids are always hard-working and always willing to do and go where they are asked.”

Karen Berry, music teacher at Saint Patrick School and former military spouse herself, is passionate about making military kids feel welcome because her children went through similar experiences.

As a teacher closing out her 22 years as an educator, this event was significant. “It just means the world to me to be recognized for teaching the military children,” said Berry.

Individuals from four area school districts, several public schools, and the installation received awards—

Mr. Jack Putt, Social Studies Teacher at Big Spring Middle School

Ms. Sherisa Nailor, Agricultural Teacher and Future Farmers of America Advisor, Big Spring High School

Mrs. Kathy Schumacher, Reading Teacher at Mt. Rock Elementary School

Mr. Robert Montgomery, School Police Supervisor, Carlisle Area School District

Mr. Joe Conklin, Business Education Teacher, Carlisle High School

Mrs. Patti Buffington, 11th-grade Assistant Principal, Carlisle High School

Ms. Brandi Carpenter, Athletic Trainer, Carlisle Area School District

Mrs. Amanda Shope, Counseling Secretary at Lamberton Middle School

Ms. Kerri Lilley, Counseling Secretary at Wilson Middle School

Mrs. Barb Wohlgemuth, Principal, LeTort Elementary School

Ms. Lindsay Bower, Counseling, Bellaire Elementary School

Mr. Roger Riegel, Assistant Principal, Mountain View Middle School

Mrs. Amanda Gervais, Supervisor of Special Education for Green Ridge, Middlesex, and Silver Spring Elementary Schools

Mr. Gerry Crispino, Counselor at Eagle View Middle School

Mrs. Karen Trybulski, Assistant Principal, Eagle View Middle School

Mrs. Stephanie Eldridge, Principal, Middlesex Elementary School

Mr. Brad Zell, Athletic Coach, Boiling Springs High School

Mr. David Robinson, Special Education Teacher, Yellow Breeches Middle School

Mrs. Jessica White, Director of Special Education, South Middleton School District

Mrs. Karen Berry, School Music Teacher at Saint Patrick School

Mrs. Jennifer Kukay, Middle School Religion Teacher at Saint Patrick School

Mr. Bob Feldman, Secondary Bible Teacher at Carlisle Christian Academy

Mrs. Judy Johns, 1st Grade Teacher at Carlisle Christian Academy

Mr. Mike Creavey, Theology Teacher and Moderator of the Patriots Club at

Trinity High School

Ms. Samantha Miller, Child & Youth Program Assistant at Tieman Child Development Center

Martha Farner, Child & Youth Program Assistant at Tieman Child Development Center

Ms. Jacqueline Griggs, Child & Youth Program Assistant at Moore Child Development Center at Carlisle Barracks

Mrs. Jennifer Bolz, Assistant Director at Moore Child Development Center at Carlisle Barracks

Mrs. Marinol Igarta, Administrative Assistant for Parent Central Services at McConnell Youth Center at Carlisle Barracks

Mr. David Myers, Child & Youth Program Assistant at McConnell Youth Center at Carlisle Barracks.