

Army War College leaders salute top educators

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For a video of the ceremony visit <https://youtu.be/z-CE-jgrgm4>

Army War College and Carlisle Barracks leaders gathered to honor top educators of the region's five school districts, Carlisle Christian Academy, Saint Patrick's School and Trinity High School, while celebrating a strong commitment to and selfless support of military children at the Excellence in Education Reception in their home, Quarters One, on April 25.

2017 marked the 14th annual reception to highlight the unique relationship between schools and the military children who live a challenging life of many moves and many school transitions.

"Debbie and I host many official gatherings here each year – but, truly, none is more important to us than this event to honor those who care for, and about, our children," he said. "You commit your interest, your questions, your encouragement, your skill in ensuring that our kids and all kids know that they matter in this community."

Rapp spoke of the investment that the Department of Defense has made in military families, including Army Community Services and youth activities and continues to refine family programs.

"But, we know now that the idea that the Army can take care of everything is simplistic," he said "We need you. We appreciate you."

He said that the Army recognizes the value of close coordination, partnerships and the role that schools and educators play with families.

"There's no one more important than the teacher, or counselor, or coach, or staffer who can help 'our' kids feel safe and appreciated and part of 'the club,'" he said, noting that half of all the military personnel and families live off the installation and in the surrounding communities. "You, personally, have made investments in keeping kids active and accepted and part of your clubs.

Rapp noted that as he and his wife, Debbie, leave the community later this summer, that families and children are in good hands.

“When we look into the rear view mirror, I’ll see a caring community,” he said. “I thank you for that. On behalf of my family, our war college student families, all military families who can know that this is what right looks like.”

The exceptional principals, teachers, and counselors who educate military children were identified for honors by the superintendents of the districts and schools. On a daily basis, administrators, teachers, coaches and counselors have shown commitment to military children and other children whose parents live a transient life through thoughtful policies and a relentless focus on children’s success and well-being.

Those honored at the event were:

Big Spring School District: Mallory Farrands, Stacey Gibb, Ashley Gleeson, and Stacey Kimble.

Carlisle Area School District: Ed Boardman, Heather Bosnyak, Kamala Cunard, Matt Fahnestock, Melissa Klingel, George Null, Betsy Richwine, and Eric Sands.

Carlisle Christian Academy: Donna D’Alessandro.

Cumberland Valley School District: Jan Beck, Susan Bianca, Judy LaPointe, Missy Rulapaugh, and Cheryl Silfee.

Mechanicsburg Area School District:Sandy Guido, Marck McManus and Christina Paterniti.

Saint Patrick School: Jessica Melphis and Trinty Kane.

Trinity High School: Alan Blackledge.

South Middleton School District: Kristen Baer, Aaron Beardmore, Tracy Lyons and Kimberly Spisk.

Tieman Child Development Center – Letterkenney Army Depot: Lauren Schooley and Karen Alexander.

Moore Child Development Center – Carlisle Barracks: Mary Angelia Larkin and Dawn Prettyman.

Youth Services – Carlisle Barracks: Sallie Bathavic and Alanna Kelso.