

Carlisle Barracks honors local school educators

By Elena Patton, Public Affairs Office 16 July 2020



The event was held at Quarters One.



Maj. Gen. Kem posing with an honoree.



Maj. Gen. Kem and Cynthia Burrell.

As a way to demonstrate an appreciation for local school districts and highlight the value placed on that community connection, Carlisle Barracks hosted the Excellence in Education reception.

The event specifically recognizes local educators, administrators and support staff for their work in enabling the educational success of the military children of Carlisle Barracks. It took place on July 14 at Quarters One, home of the senior commander.

“The support you all provide for the families, international students, the U.S. students is really an amazing thing to watch,” said Commandant Maj. Gen. John Kem. “I don’t think that a lot of people have an appreciation for what you all do.”

“That’s why we do this event, to thank all of you,” said Kem.

A wide variety of individuals were recognized, K-12 teachers, principals,

school counselors, school nurses, emotional support teachers, and IT staff, among others.

“It is awesome that this organization, this community is recognizing the educators who are day-to-day working with these students and supporting them in many different ways... throughout the time that they are in the area,” said Bebekah Marshall, Emotional Support Teacher at Mechanicsburg Area School District.

This reception also highlights the importance Carlisle Barracks places on that community connection.

“It is a way to build that partnership in the community,” said Jacqueline Schultz, the base's School Liaison, Education and Outreach Services Director.

“It’s a very valuable relationship between the two,” said Kerry Wheeler, school nurse for Carlisle Area School District.

Many of the school-age kids' parents are assigned to Carlisle Barracks for 10-12 months. The Education Reception recognizes that excellence in student support includes the ways that educators teachers welcome transitional kids, help them get acclimated and make new friends, and maintain attention to challenges specific to all transitional students.

Some educators draw on their own military backgrounds to help ease the transition for their military students. “My family was a military family so I have a soft spot in my heart for military children and the struggles they go through I really enjoy seeing them come into my classroom,” said Machele Lynch, Saint Patrick School.

In turn, the educators spoke of how the kids enhance the classroom environment.

“One of the things I think they add to the school district and the classroom is the different ideas they bring into the classroom from other places they have been,” said Athan Mazias of Carlisle Area School District. “It really adds to the dynamic of the classroom.”

“They share with our students the cultures from the different areas that they come from,” said Jill Hollar of Cumberland Valley School District, speaking of the international fellows' children. “Our students are exposed to students speaking different languages -- which is helpful for our students.”

Kem, in his closing remarks, captured the crux of this community

connection with local schools. "In the end, being agile, adaptive in trying to help kids is what is it all about.

"The one thing we talk about is being kind to people because people are anxious in uncertainty, and you all have that in your hearts," said Kem.

Individuals from five area school districts and educators working with children in Carlisle Barracks Child & Youth Services were honored.

Big Spring School District: Alisha Willis, Kelly Fry, and Kim Shinham

Carlisle Area School District: Marlene Adler, Thea Elliot, Jeff Friend, Athan Mazias, Nicholas Sadvari, Myrandah Stawb, and Kelly Wheeler

Trinity High School: Luz Hamilton and Martin Carr

Cumberland Valley School District: Linda Cook, Donna Smith, Steve Kirkpatrick, Jenna Carlson, and Jill Hollar

Mechanicsburg Area School District: Bebekah Marshall, Allison Whitman, and Jina Zeger

South Middleton School District: Michael Freese and Michelle Long

Saint Patrick School: Jill Brown and Machele Lynch

Carlisle Barracks' Moore Child Development Center: Bertilla Gillespie and Dayanna Colon

Carlisle Barracks' McConnell Youth Center: Michelle A. Shade and Amy S. Taylor.

Letterkenny's Tieman Child Development Center: Tiana Lupino and Debra Mackanick