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COLUMBIA SCHOOL SYSTEM
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March 15, 2019

Dear Porter Families, Students and Staff,

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council has established the Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Program to recognize the important role of the paraeducator in supporting student achievement. The State program honors one paraeducator who has demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication of his/her job based from the nominations received from Superintendents and School Directors.

Horace W. Porter supports this program and the celebration of paraeducators who have earned the respect and admiration of teachers, students, administrators, colleagues, and parents through their diligent and caring work. For those who may not know, a paraeducator is an employee who assists teachers and/or therapists in the delivery of instructional and related services to students. Our paraeducators, at Porter School, hold many different positions including classroom paras, special education paras, reading and math interventionists and one to one paras. Our current 2019 Paraeducator of The Year is Kristen Bacon.

The name of Porter's POTY will be announced at the start of the next school year. In addition, the 2020 POTY will be introduced to the Columbia community via the weekly newsletter and to the student body during the first Porter Pride Assembly. Nomination forms will be available on our website.

Thank you for taking the time to recognize the work of the paraeducators we have as part of our instructional team! Parents, students and staff are invited to nominate our 2020 Porter Paraeducator of the Year! We encourage you to talk to your child/children to obtain information they may want you to share on your nomination form. Nomination forms should be returned to POTY Selection Committee c/o Bonnie Quinn at [bquinn@hwporter.org] by **Friday, April 26, 2019**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Bonnie at 860-228-9493 x165 or any of the other committee members listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Bacon

Pamela Basile

Eileen Paulhus

Bonnie Quinn

Carolyn Ritchie

Paraeducator of The Year Committee

Horace W. Porter School Paraeducator of the Year Nomination Form

Name of Nominator: _____ Name of Nominee: _____

A paraeducator is an employee who assists teachers and/or therapists in the delivery of instructional and related services to students. Our paraeducators, at Porter School, hold many different positions including classroom paras, special education paras, reading and math interventionists and one to one paras. The paraeducator works under the direct supervision of a teacher or other certified or licensed professional. **Only paraeducators who assist teachers in the delivery of instruction and related services to students are eligible for this award.**

Please respond below to all that apply to the nominee.

1. Please describe what makes this person an outstanding paraeducator. [examples include; student interactions, team player, character traits, innovative ideas] _____

2. Please explain how this candidate goes above and beyond their daily tasks in their position. [examples include; working with staff and collaborating with teachers, working with and supporting students to succeed, Professional Development, workshops and personal study.]

3. Please describe how this candidate strengthens &/or improves their student(s) education? If applicable, how does this candidate encourage and facilitate student interactions with peers? [examples include; engaging students in learning & social interactions, implementing behavior management plans, meeting set educational goals] _____

4. Please describe this candidate's commitment to Porter School &/or The Town of Columbia? [examples include; Collegial interactions, volunteering and mentoring, community service and committee involvement] _____
