



Wyoming Department of Education

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PRESS Release

Local Teacher of the Year, Kathy Butler, Receives Accolades

Carbon County School District #1 teacher, Kathy Butler, received district Teacher of the Year award for 2015, according to Superintendent of Public Instruction Cindy Hill. Butler, a teacher for 23 years, serves as second grade teacher at Rawlins Elementary School.

"I believe my greatest contribution in education is my ability to connect with students, parents and colleagues," Butler says. "It's still a thrill after 23 years to know that I had a hand in connecting with students and in turn they accomplish goals and experience success. Parents are key partners in our students' educational journey. My relationship with them is invaluable. Sometimes this means going to the home for a conference. Extending myself to parents sends a strong message that I care."

Accountability is a current buzz word in educational circles. Butler addresses this topic: "Teacher evaluations measured by student test scores is an area of concern. Teachers know that there are too many variables that can affect student performance. The world depends on educated people to solve problems. We can't let high stakes testing and poor teacher evaluation systems destroy our reputation as one of the greatest professions on earth."

Butler, who will receive a crystal apple award from the Wyoming Department of Education, says, "I count my accomplishments in education by the number of students who visit me after they are out of my class, especially those unforgettable ones who made me earn every penny of my salary. I count it by the number of parents who still email or drop by. I count my accomplishments by colleagues who say, 'Wow, I like your style.' At the end of the day I say, "That's why I became a teacher."